



# NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

## A Research Report

### **Individual and Community Quality of Life in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska**

*2018 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

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# Executive Summary

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Recent Census estimates reveal more Nebraska counties saw population growth (and a decline in loss) during the current decade compared to the previous decade. However, many rural counties continue to experience population loss. And, while certain indicators have improved, low agricultural commodity prices have continued to depress farm income which could hinder economic growth in the state. Given these challenges, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? How do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? Have these views changed over the past 23 years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,670 responses to the 2018 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community and well-being. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from the 22 previous polls to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***By many different measures, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community.***
  - ✓ *Many rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions.* Many rural Nebraskans rate their communities as friendly (76%), trusting (65%) and supportive (69%).
  - ✓ *Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community.* Fifty-two percent say it would be difficult for their household to leave their community. Three in ten (30%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community and 18 percent gave a neutral response.
  - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community.* Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (63%), they belong in their community (63%), they feel like a member of their community (62%), they feel connected with their community (57%), they can get what they need in their community (54%) and the community helps them fulfill their needs (52%).
  - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.* Just over six in ten rural Nebraskans (63%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.
  - ✓ *Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive.* The proportion believing their community has changed for the better during the past year has usually been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially during the past seven years when the gap between the two has widened.
  - ✓ *Rural Nebraskans' optimism about the expected change in their community ten years from now has increased during the past seven years.* The proportion believing their community will be a better place to live ten years from now has steadily increased during the past eight years, from 20 percent in 2011 to 29 percent this year.

- **Residents of larger communities are more likely than residents of smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year and will be a better place to live ten years from now.**
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year.* Forty-one percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their community has changed for the better during the past year, compared to 27 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now.* Just over one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (35%) believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 17 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.
  
- **Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have their needs met in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to feel like they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community and that people in their community are good at influencing each other.**
  
- **Except for some services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities.** At least two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with the following services or amenities: fire protection (89%), parks and recreation (74%), library services (74%), education (K-12) (69%), religious organizations (67%), and law enforcement (66%). On the other hand, at least one-third of rural Nebraskans are dissatisfied with the retail shopping, entertainment, streets and roads, restaurants, quality of housing, arts/cultural activities, cost of housing, and Internet services in their community.
  - ✓ *The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased across all 22 years of the study.* Declines in satisfaction levels across all 22 years are seen with nursing home care, medical care services, senior centers, mental health services, entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants.
  
- **Many rural Nebraskans say that people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they have in the past five years.** Almost one-half (49%) say political discussions are happening more often, over four in ten (44%) say the frequency of discussions has not changed and seven percent say they are happening less often.
  - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they have in the past.* Six in ten persons living in or near the largest communities (60%) say these discussions are happening more often, compared to just under four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000.
  
- **Most rural Nebraskans rate themselves as having conservative political views on both economic and social issues. They also rate their community's political views on both economic and social views as conservative.** In fact, they view their community's political views on social issues as more conservative than their own. Fifty-two percent of rural Nebraskans have conservative views on social issues and 60 percent rate their community's political views on social issues as conservative.



- ***This year, rural Nebraskans continue to be positive about their current situation.*** Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans (52%) believe they are better off than they were five years ago (the same as the past two years). The proportion of rural Nebraskans who believe they are worse off than they were five years ago dropped slightly from 16 percent last year to 13 percent this year (the lowest proportion of all 23 years of this study). Each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago, especially during the past five years when the gap between the two has widened.
- ***Rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future continues to be optimistic.*** Almost one-half of rural Nebraskans (49%) believe they will be better off ten years from now. This is similar to the 48 percent reported last year. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now remained the same at 16 percent. Across all 23 years of this study, the proportion saying they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now. In fact, the gap between the two has gradually widened since 2013.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans disagree that people are powerless to control their own lives.*** This year, 52 percent strongly disagree or disagree with that statement.
- ***Following trends in previous years, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with their marriage, family, friends, the outdoors, their safety and their general quality of life. They continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level, their ability to build assets/wealth and financial security during retirement.***
- ***Younger persons are more likely than older persons to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now.*** Almost eight in ten persons age 19 to 29 (77%) believe they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, just under one-third of persons age 65 and older (32%) share this opinion. Similarly, almost eight in ten persons age 19 to 29 (79%) believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to only 17 percent of persons age 65 and older.
- ***In many measures, Panhandle residents are more likely than resident of other regions of the state to report dissatisfaction or pessimism.***
  - ✓ Just over two in ten Panhandle residents (22%) say their community has changed for the better during the past year. And, approximately one-third (34%) say their community has changed for the worse during the past year. Similarly, just over one-quarter (28%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.
  - ✓ One-quarter of Panhandle residents agree that their community is powerless to control its own future.
  - ✓ Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with the following community services/amenities: retail shopping, entertainment, restaurants, quality of housing, their local government and cellular phone service. They are also the regional group most likely to be dissatisfied with their job opportunities.
  - ✓ Just over four in ten Panhandle residents (41%) believe they are better off compared to five years ago, compared to almost six in ten residents of the South Central region (59%).

## Introduction

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Recent Census estimates reveal more Nebraska counties saw population growth (and a decline in loss) during the current decade compared to the previous decade. However, many rural counties continue to experience population loss. And, while certain indicators have improved, low agricultural commodity prices have continued to depress farm income which could hinder economic growth in the state. Given these challenges, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? How do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? Have these views changed over the past 23 years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,670 responses to the 2018 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community and well-being.

### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 1,670 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.<sup>1</sup> A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to 6,130 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions

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<sup>1</sup> In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint

pertaining to well-being, community, community economic development and community social issues. This paper reports only results from the community social issues section.

A 27% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project manager approximately ten days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately ten days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 20 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The

Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy-one percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 73 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 42 years and have lived in their current community 26 years. Fifty-eight percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-seven percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-eight percent of the respondents report their 2017 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Sixty-two percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Seventy-eight percent were employed in 2017 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Seventeen percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

### Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2018)

Comparisons are made between the community data collected this year to the 22 previous studies. These were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

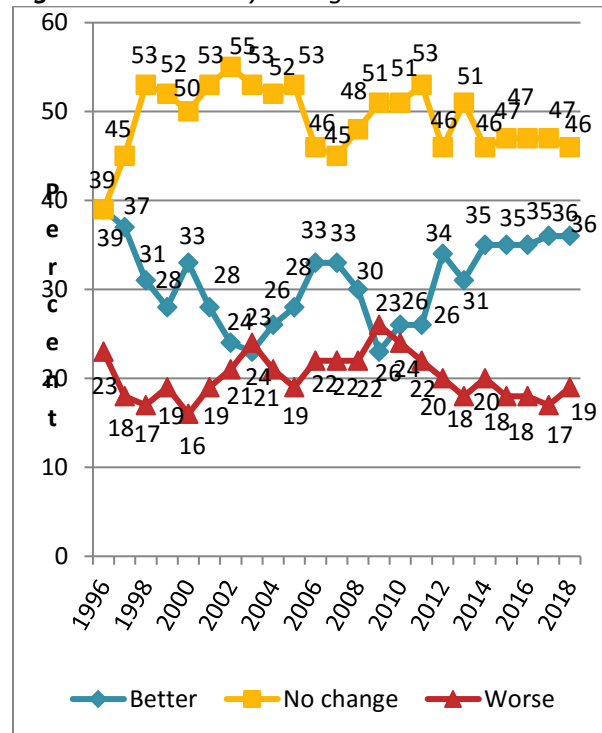
### Community Change

To examine respondents' perceptions of how their community has changed, they were asked the question, "Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...My community has changed for the..." Answer categories were better, no change or worse.

One difference in the wording of this question has occurred over the past 23 years. Starting in 1998, the phrase "this past year" was added to the question; no time frame was given to the respondents in the first two studies. Also, in 2007 the middle response "same" was replaced with "no change."

Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive. The proportion believing their community has changed for the better has typically been greater than the proportion believing it has

Figure 1. Community Change 1996 - 2018



changed for the worse, especially during the past seven years when the gap between the two has widened (Figure 1).

The proportion saying their community has changed for the better has averaged approximately 31 percent. Following a seven-year period of general decline, the proportion saying their community has changed for the better increased from 23 percent in 2003 to 33 percent in 2007. It then declined to 23 percent in 2009 (the lowest proportion of all 23 years, also occurring in 2003). However, the proportion viewing positive change in their community has since increased to 36 percent this year.

The proportion saying their community has stayed the same first increased from 1996 to 1998. It then remained fairly steady during the following eight years but declined in both 2006 and 2007. Then it steadily increased to 53 percent in 2011. However, the proportion dropped to 46 percent in 2012, then increased to 51 percent in 2013 before declining to 46 percent this year.

The proportion saying their community has changed for the worse has remained fairly steady across all 23 years, averaging 20 percent. It increased from 22 percent in 2008 to 26 percent in 2009 (the highest proportion in all years of this study). Since then, however, it has generally decreased to 19 percent this year.

Starting in 2011, respondents were also asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, “Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?”

The proportion believing their community will

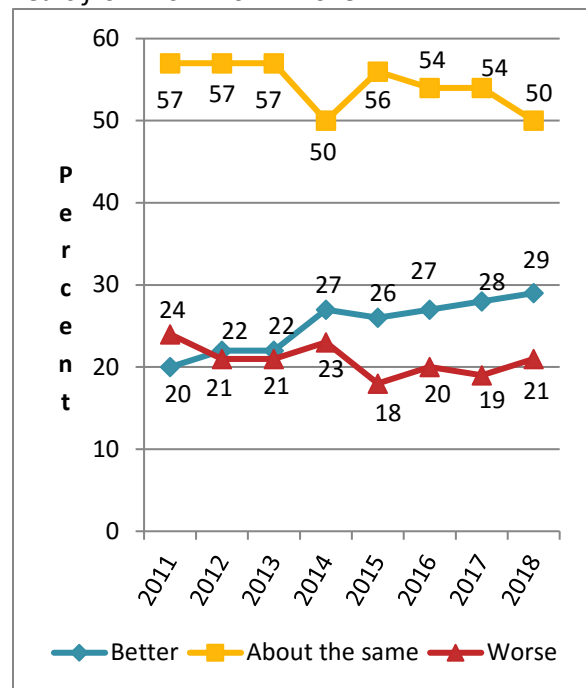
be a better place to live ten years from now has steadily increased during the past eight years, from 20 percent in 2011 to 29 percent this year (Figure 2). The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live has declined from 24 percent in 2011 to 21 percent this year.

The proportion thinking their community will be about the same ten years from now has remained relatively stable, with the exceptions of 2014 and this year when it declined to 50 percent.

### Community Social Dimensions

Respondents were also asked each year if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. For each of these three dimensions, respondents were asked to rate their community using a seven-point scale between each pair of contrasting views.

**Figure 2. Expected Community Change Ten Years from Now: 2011 - 2018**



The proportion of respondents who view their community as friendly has remained fairly steady over the 23-year period, ranging from 69 to 77 percent. The proportion of respondents who view their community as trusting has also remained fairly steady, ranging from 59 to 66 percent.

A similar pattern emerged when examining the proportion of respondents who rated their community as supportive. The proportions rating their community as supportive have ranged from 60 percent to 69 percent over the 23-year period.

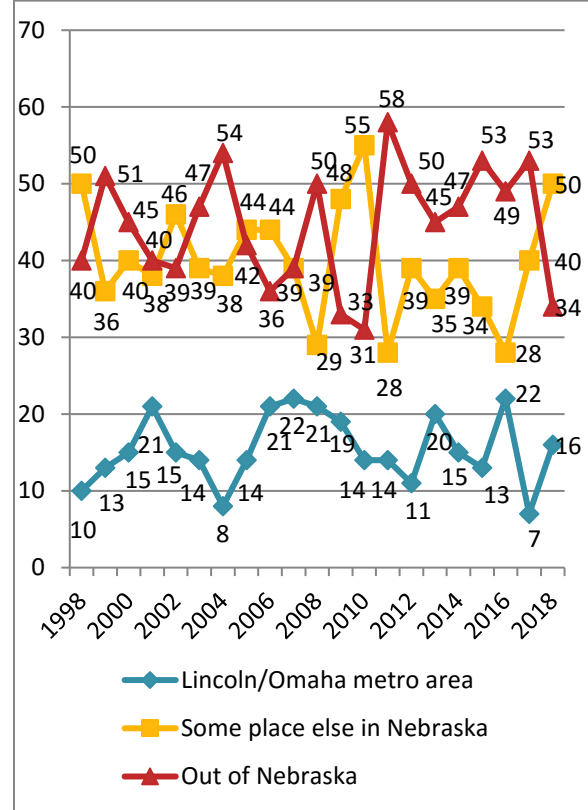
### Plans to Leave the Community

Starting in 1998, respondents were asked, “Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?” The proportion planning to leave their community has remained relatively stable during the past 21 years, ranging from 3 percent to 8 percent.

The expected destination for the persons planning to move has changed over time (Figure 3). Following a brief increase last year, the proportion of expected movers planning to leave the state sharply decreased from 53 percent last year to 34 percent this year. The proportion expecting to leave the state has averaged approximately 45 percent over the 21-year period.

The proportion of expected movers planning to move to either the Omaha or Lincoln area had generally declined between 2006 and 2012, from 21 percent to 11 percent. However, it increased to 20 percent in 2013, decreased to 13 percent in 2015, increased to 22 percent in 2016, decreased sharply to seven percent last year (the lowest proportion in all 21 years) before increasing again to 16 percent this year. The proportion of expected movers planning to move to the Omaha or Lincoln area has

**Figure 3. Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2018**



averaged approximately 15 percent.

And, the proportion of expected movers planning to move to other areas of rural Nebraska had generally increased from 28 percent in 2011 to 39 in 2014, but then declined to 28 percent in 2016. Since then, it sharply increased to 50 percent this year. The average proportion expecting to move to other areas of rural Nebraska has been 40 percent.

### Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they are with various community services and amenities each year. They were asked this in all 23 studies; however, in 1996 they were also asked about the availability of these services.

Therefore, comparisons will only be made between the last 22 studies, when the question wording was identical. The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 27 services and amenities, taking into consideration availability, cost, and quality.

Table 1 shows the proportions very or somewhat satisfied with the service each year. The rank ordering of these items has remained relatively stable over the 22 years. However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services has declined across all 22 years of the study. As an example, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with nursing home care has dropped from 63 percent in 1997 to 38 percent this year. Similar declines occur with medical care services, senior centers, and mental health services. In addition, satisfaction with entertainment services (entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants) have also generally declined over the past 22 years. Satisfaction with retail shopping has declined from 53 percent in 1997 to 35 percent this year.

On the other hand, satisfaction with cellular phone service has generally increased over time. The proportion satisfied with cellular phone services has increased from 49 percent in 2006 (the first year it was included in the survey) to 59 percent this year. However, it has steadily declined during the past three years.

One item saw a decrease from last year. Last year, 44 percent were satisfied with the nursing home care in their community. That proportion declined to 38 percent this year. One item increased during the past year. Satisfaction with public transportation services increased from 17 percent to 21 percent.

## The Community and Its Attributes in 2018

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In this section, the 2018 data on respondents' evaluations of their communities and its attributes are examined in terms of any significant differences that may exist depending upon the size of the respondent's community, the region in which they live, or various individual attributes such as household income or age.

### *Community Change*

The perceptions of the change occurring in their community by various demographic subgroups are examined (Appendix Table 2). Residents living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that their community has changed for the better during the past year. Forty-one percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 27 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.

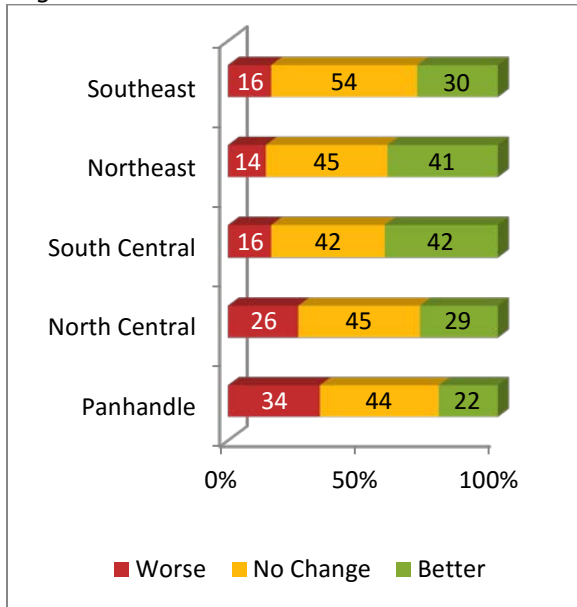
Persons living in both the South Central and Northeast regions are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their community has changed for the better during the past year (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Just over four in ten residents of these two regions say their community changed for the better during the past year, compared to 22 percent of persons living in the Panhandle region (Figure 4). Approximately one-third (34%) of Panhandle residents say their community has changed for the worse during the past year.

**Table 1. Proportion of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Service, 1997 - 2018**

Service/Amenity	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fire protection	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	86	85	86	87	85	86	85	86	86	87	87	85	89
Parks/recreation	77	77	75	77	73	74	76	75	74	75	74	75	74	74	75	76	76	71	76	78	75	74
Library services	78	78	72	79	71	74	74	74	72	73	74	75	74	73	73	72	73	72	73	71	73	74
Education (K-12)	71	74	72	73	69	69	69	68	68	68	68	70	68	68	68	68	68	68	69	68	70	69
Religious org.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	72	72	73	71	71	70	72	71	70	72	69	68	67
Sewage/waste disposal*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	66	66	67	66	65	65	64	67	64	65	64	66	67
Sewage disposal	68	63	63	63	61	66	64	67	63	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Water disposal	66	61	60	61	60	64	62	65	62	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Solid waste disp.	61	59	60	60	60	64	63	65	63	64	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Law enforcement	66	64	63	64	61	63	65	63	63	64	63	62	64	65	63	65	64	62	64	69	67	66
Medical care svcs	73	73	70	72	71	69	71	71	71	71	63	66	67	67	67	68	66	62	62	64	63	59
Cell phone services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	49	54	58	61	60	64	63	65	60	64	63	61	59
Internet service	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	51	57	58	56	60	59	59	56	58	56	54	53
Comm recycling	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	48	52	54	54	54	58	53	55	52	50	51
Quality of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	44	45	45	44	47
Cost of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	45	45	45	46
Housing	61	63	62	56	57	62	60	61	60	61	59	59	61	59	59	57	52	*	*	*	*	*
Senior centers	66	65	62	59	58	62	61	58	59	55	48	47	47	47	48	47	48	47	49	47	47	45
Streets and roads*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	55	49	51	47	48	49	53	44	47	43	44	45
Streets	*	59	62	59	51	61	62	59	60	60	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Highway/bridges	*	66	68	68	65	69	70	69	70	69	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Restaurants	59	57	56	55	53	51	54	56	54	54	50	45	47	47	48	48	46	40	46	43	43	45
Nursing home care	63	62	59	56	55	57	57	55	55	53	46	47	45	46	46	45	43	47	47	43	44	38
Local government*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	41	40	38	41	40	41	42	40	37	40	37	42	39
County govt.	48	53	53	49	49	47	51	48	47	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
City/village govt.	46	50	51	45	46	45	48	45	46	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Head start progms	44	41	37	40	39	38	40	41	39	37	29	26	28	29	27	27	27	39	39	39	40	37
Retail shopping	53	48	49	47	47	45	45	49	47	45	41	39	40	41	37	39	38	33	38	34	32	35
Child day care svcs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	32	34	35	35	32	34	34	33	31	30
Day care services	51	50	45	46	43	44	45	47	45	42	31	28	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Entertainment	38	35	34	33	33	32	33	36	32	34	30	26	29	32	30	30	31	26	29	26	28	29
Arts/cultural activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	26	25	24	27	27	27	26	24	26	22	24	26
Adult day care svcs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	21	22	21	21	*	*	*	*	*
Airport	*	*	*	30	29	32	32	32	31	26	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pub transp svcs*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	17	17	19	18	19	19	20	17	19	18	17	21
Airline service	*	*	*	15	15	16	17	18	15	15	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Taxi service	11	9	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	11	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rail service	14	11	11	10	10	11	11	13	11	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bus service	13	11	10	9	10	9	10	11	7	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mental health svcs	34	32	29	30	29	30	30	31	30	27	23	23	24	23	24	25	23	21	23	22	21	19

\* = Not asked that particular year; \* New items added in 2007 that combine previous items (indented below each).

**Figure 4. Perceptions of Community Change by Region**



Other groups most likely to say their community has changed for the better during the past year include: persons with higher household incomes, persons with higher education levels, long-term residents of the community (persons living in their community for more than five years) and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

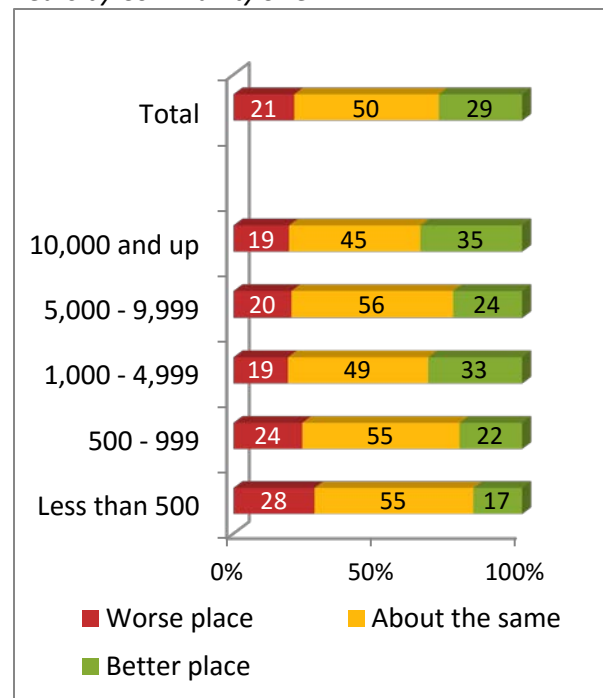
In addition, respondents were asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, “Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?” Almost three in ten rural Nebraskans (29%) expect their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. One-half (50%) expect it to be about the same and just over one in five (21%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Respondents’ perceptions differ by the size of

their community, the region in which they live and some individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Just over one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations greater than 10,000 (35%) believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now (Figure 5). In comparison, 17 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people think their community will improve in ten years. Almost three in ten persons living in or near the smallest communities (28%) believe their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Over

**Figure 5. Expected Community Change in Ten Years by Community Size**





one-third (37%) of persons living in the South Central region believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to approximately 23 percent of residents from the Panhandle, North Central and Southeast regions of the state. Similar to their perceptions of current community change, just over one-quarter of Panhandle residents (28%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Other groups most likely to have an optimistic view about their community's future include: younger persons, females, persons who have never married, persons with higher education levels, and newcomers to the community.

### *Community Social Dimensions*

In addition to asking respondents about their perceptions of the change occurring in their community, they were also asked to rate its social dimensions. They were asked if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (76%), trusting (65%) and supportive (69%).

Respondents' ratings of their community on these dimensions differ by some of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near the largest communities to rate their community as trusting and supportive. Just over seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 (71%) say their community is trusting, compared to approximately 57 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Persons living in the Panhandle region are *less*

likely than residents of other regions of the state to say their community is supportive. Just over one-half of Panhandle residents (54%) rate their community as supportive, compared to just under three-quarters of residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to rate their community as friendly and trusting. As an example, 78 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more view their community as friendly, compared to 64 percent of persons with incomes under \$20,000.

The youngest respondents are the age group most likely to rate their community as supportive. Just over eight in ten persons age 19 to 29 (83%) view their community as supportive, compared to 62 percent of persons age 30 to 39.

Males are more likely than females to rate their community as supportive. When comparing responses by marital status, both married persons and widowed persons are the groups most likely to rate their community as trusting.

Persons with the highest education levels are more likely than persons with less education to rate their community as friendly and supportive. Newcomers to the community are more likely than long-term residents to rate their community as friendly and trusting. Three-quarters of persons living in their community for less than five years (75%) rate their community as trusting, compared to 64 percent of persons living in their community for more than five years.

Respondents were next asked a question to determine if they view their community as powerless. They were asked, "Do you agree or

disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future.” They were given a five-point scale that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over six in ten rural Nebraskans (63%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Less than two in ten rural Nebraskans (16%) believe their community is powerless to control its future and just over two in ten (21%) are undecided.

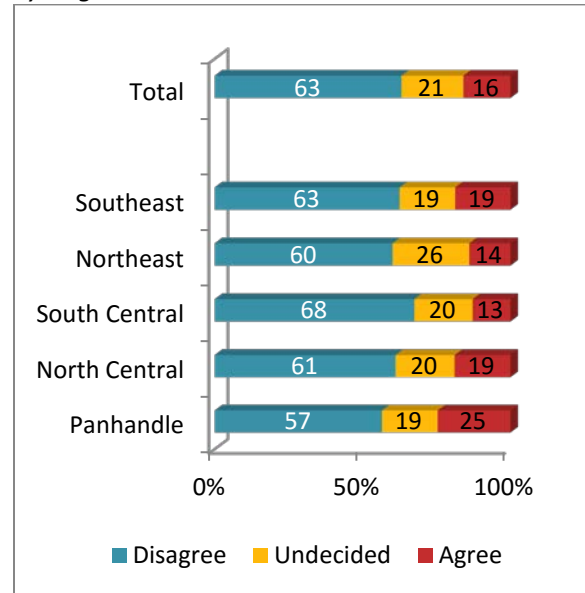
The feelings of community powerlessness are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Many differences emerge.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over two-thirds of residents of the South Central region (68%) disagree with this statement, compared to 57 percent of Panhandle residents (Figure 6).

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over seven in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree (73%) disagree with this statement, compared to 43 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Other groups most likely to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future include: persons with higher household incomes; persons age 40 to 49; females; married persons; persons with management, professional or education occupations; and

**Figure 6. Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Region**



persons with food service or personal care occupations.

### **Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities**

Next, rural residents were asked to rate how satisfied they are with 27 different services and amenities, taking into consideration cost, availability, and quality. Residents report high levels of satisfaction with some services, but other services and amenities have higher levels of dissatisfaction. Only six services listed have a higher proportion of dissatisfied responses than satisfied responses and those services are largely unavailable in rural communities.

The services or amenities respondents are most satisfied with (based on the combined percentage of “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” responses) include: fire protection (89%), parks and recreation (74%), library services (74%), education (K-12) (69%), religious organizations (67%), and law enforcement (66%) (Appendix Table 6). At least one-third of

the respondents are either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with retail shopping (50%), entertainment (48%), streets and roads (48%), restaurants (45%), quality of housing (39%), arts/cultural activities (38%), cost of housing (37%), and Internet service (34%).

The ten services and amenities with the greatest dissatisfaction ratings were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). Many differences emerge.

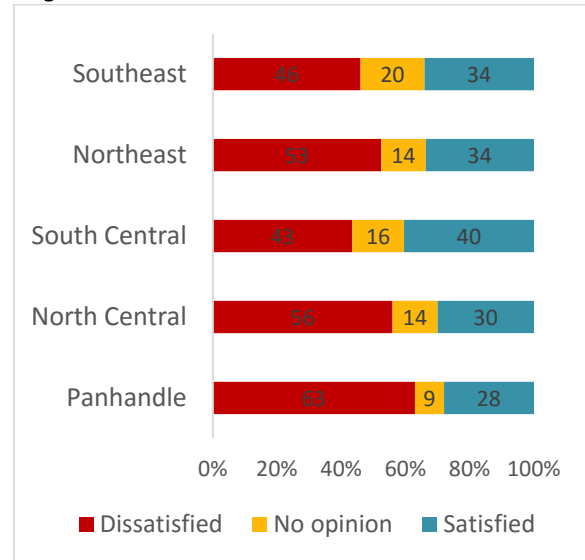
In general, persons living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to express dissatisfaction with their entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants. For example, at least one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 9,999 are dissatisfied with their restaurants, compared to 37 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the retail shopping, entertainment and restaurants in their community. Just over six in ten Panhandle residents (63%) are dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community, compared to 43 percent of residents of the South Central region (Figure 7).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to be dissatisfied with the entertainment and restaurants in their community. Just over one-half (51%) of persons age 19 to 29 are dissatisfied with the restaurants in their community, compared to 39 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Persons with mid-level household incomes are

**Figure 7. Satisfaction with Retail Shopping by Region**



more likely than persons with both lower and higher incomes to be dissatisfied with the entertainment in their community. Persons with some college education (but not a four year degree) are the education group most likely to be dissatisfied with the entertainment and restaurants in their community.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are the occupation group most likely to be dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community. Both persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations and persons with sales or office support occupations are the groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with the entertainment in their community. Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's restaurants.

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their streets and roads. Almost six in ten residents of the Northeast region (59%) express dissatisfaction

with their streets and roads, compared to 40 percent of residents of the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads include: persons with lower household incomes; persons age 40 to 49; persons with lower education levels; persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations; and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the quality of housing in their community. Just over one-half of the Panhandle residents (51%) are dissatisfied with the quality of housing, compared to 32 percent of persons living in the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of housing in their community include persons with lower household incomes and younger persons.

Persons with foods service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities. Over one-half of persons with these types of occupations (56%) are dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities, compared to 27 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities include: persons living in or near smaller communities, persons with household incomes ranging from \$40,000 to \$59,999, persons age 30 to 39, and persons with higher education levels.

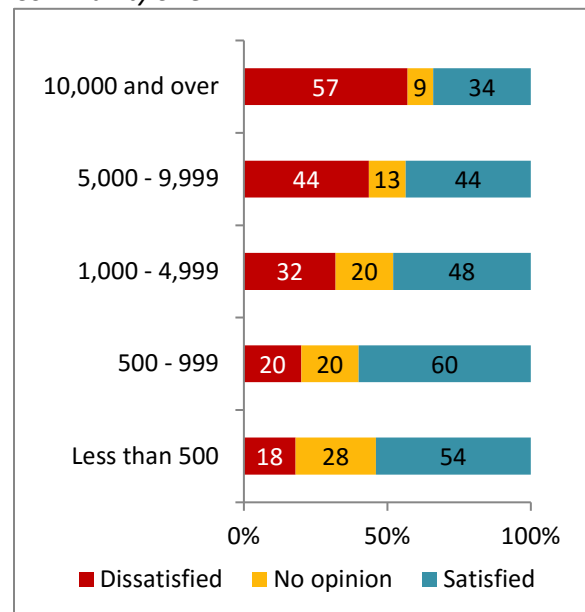
Persons living in or near larger communities are

more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to express dissatisfaction with the cost of housing in their community. Just over one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (57%) are dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing, compared to 18 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 (Figure 8).

Residents of the Panhandle, North Central and South Central regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say they are dissatisfied with the cost of housing in their community. Just over four in ten residents of these three regions are dissatisfied with their cost of housing, compared to 21 percent of the residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing include: persons with lower household incomes, persons

**Figure 8. Satisfaction with Cost of Housing by Community Size**



age 30 to 49, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to express dissatisfaction with the Internet service in their community. Over one-third of persons with household incomes over \$20,000 are dissatisfied with their Internet service, compared to 20 percent of persons with household incomes less than \$20,000.

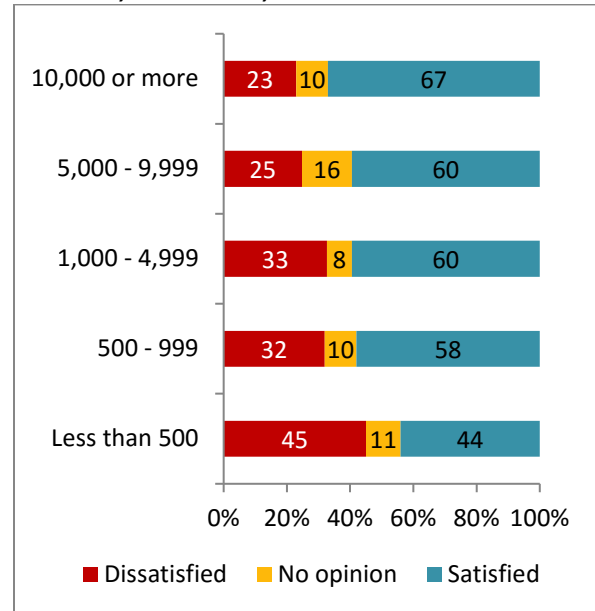
The other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the Internet service in their community include persons age 30 to 39 and persons with higher education levels.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their local government. Just over four in ten Panhandle residents (41%) are dissatisfied with their local government, compared to 25 percent of residents of the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their local government include: persons living in or near larger communities; persons with lower household incomes; older persons; persons with less education; persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations; and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be dissatisfied with their cellular phone service. Just under one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 express dissatisfaction with their cell phone service, compared to just over two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more (Figure 9).

**Figure 9. Satisfaction with Cellular Phone Service by Community Size**



Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their cellular phone service include: Panhandle residents, persons with mid-level incomes, younger persons, and persons with higher education levels.

### *Opinions about the Community*

Next, respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements about their community. Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community. Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (63%), they belong in their community (63%), they feel like a member of their community (62%), they feel connected with their community (57%), they can get what they need in their community (54%) and the community helps them fulfill their needs (52%) (Table 2). Feelings are mixed on whether or not they believe they have a say about what goes on in their community.

Respondents' level of attachment to their community is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 8). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have their needs met in their community. People living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that they can get what they need in their community and that the community helps them fulfill their needs. Almost two-thirds of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (64%) agree that they can get what they need in this community, compared to just over four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 (41%).

However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to feel that they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community, and that people in the community are good at influencing each other. Over four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations

under 1,000 agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community. In comparison, one-quarter (25%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more share this opinion.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to feel they can get what they need in their community, that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, and that they feel connected to this community. As an example, just over six in ten residents of the South Central region (61%) agree that they can get what they need in their community, compared to just under one-half of residents of both the Panhandle and Southeast regions. Residents of the Panhandle are the regional group *least* likely to agree that they have a good bond with others in their community.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to agree with most of the statements listed. Almost six in ten persons with the highest household incomes (57%) agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs,

**Table 2. Opinions About Community**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can get what I need in this community.	7%	25%	15%	47%	7%
This community helps me fulfill my needs.	5	20	24	47	5
I feel like a member of this community.	4	12	22	47	15
I belong in this community.	4	10	24	48	15
I have a say about what goes on in my community.	11	23	33	28	6
People in this community are good at influencing each other.	4	12	36	42	7
I feel connected to this community.	6	14	24	45	11
I have a good bond with others in this community.	4	11	22	50	13

compared to four in ten persons with the lowest household incomes (40%).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they can get what they need in their community. Almost two-thirds of persons age 19 to 29 (65%) agree that can get what they need in their community, compared to just under one-half of persons age 50 and older. Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree that they feel like a member of their community and that they feel connected to their community. As an example, over six in ten persons age 65 and older (63%) agree that they feel connected to their community, compared to 51 percent of persons age 19 to 29. Both the youngest and oldest persons are the groups most likely to agree that they belong in their community.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree with most of the statements listed. As an example, just over two-thirds of persons with at least a four year degree (68%) agree that they feel like a member of their community, compared to 55 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Widowed persons are more likely than other marital groups to agree that their community helps them fulfill their needs, that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, that people in their community are good at influencing each other, that they feel connected to their community and that they have a good bond with others in their community. Married persons join the widowed persons as the groups most likely to agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community. Both married persons and persons who have never married are the groups most likely to agree that they can get what they need in their community.

Persons with management, professional or education occupations are the group most likely to agree that they can get what they need in their community. Persons with occupations in agriculture join this group as most likely to agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community. Persons with occupations in agriculture are the group most likely to agree that they feel like a member of their community and that they belong in their community. Persons with sales or office support occupations are the group most likely to agree that people in their community are good at influencing each other. Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the group most likely to agree that they feel connected to their community. Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are the occupation group most likely to say they have a good bond with others in their community.

Long-term residents have more attachment to their community than do newcomers. Long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to a community to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, that they feel connected to the community and that they have a good bond with others in their community. As an example, almost six in ten long-term residents (59%) agree that they feel connected to their community, compared to 45 percent of newcomers.

Newcomers are more likely than long-term residents to say that they can get what they need in their community, the community helps them fulfill their needs, they have a say about what goes on in their community, and people in the community are good at influencing each other.

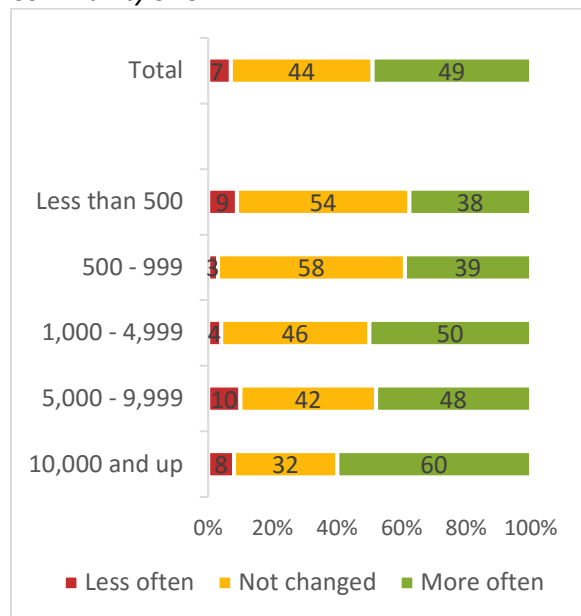
Next, respondents were asked about political discussions in their community. Specifically,

they were asked, “In the past five years, have you found that people in your community are discussing political issues less than they have in the past, more than they have in the past or has this not changed?”

Many rural Nebraskans say that people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they have in the past five years. Almost one-half (49%) say political discussions are happening more often, over four in ten (44%) say the frequency of discussions has not changed and seven percent say they are happening less often (Figure 10).

The frequency of political discussions in the community is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 9). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they

**Figure 10. Change in Community Political Discussions During the Past Five Years by Community Size**



have in the past. Six in ten persons living in or near the largest communities (60%) say these discussions are happening more often, compared to just under four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 (Figure 10).

Other groups most likely to say people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they have in the past include: persons age 40 to 49, persons with food service or personal care occupations and long-term residents of the community.

### Plans to Leave the Community

Next, respondents were asked a question about how easy or difficult it would be to leave their community. The exact question wording was “Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. Some people might be happy to live in a new place and meet new people. Others might be very sorry to leave. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?” They were given a seven point scale where 1 indicated very easy and 7 denoted very difficult. Just over one-half (52%) of rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community (Figure 11). Three in ten (30%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.

Responses to this question are examined by region, community size and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 10). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Approximately six in ten persons living in or near communities with



populations under 1,000 believe it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 46 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Just over six in ten residents of the South Central region (61%) say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 37 percent of Panhandle residents (Figure 11).

Other groups most likely to say it would be difficult to leave their community include: females, widowed persons, persons with food service or personal care occupations, persons with occupations in agriculture, and long-term residents.

To determine rural Nebraskans' migration intentions, respondents were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" Response options included: yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to someplace

in Nebraska outside the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to some place other than Nebraska; no; and uncertain.

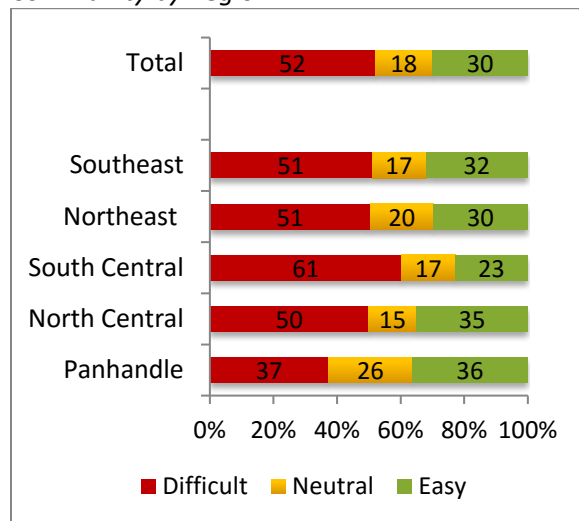
Only eight percent of rural Nebraskans indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year, 11 percent are uncertain and 81 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, approximately one-third (34%) plan to leave Nebraska. Two-thirds plan to remain in the state, with 16 percent planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha area and 50 percent plan to move to another part of the state.

Intentions to move from their community differ by many of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 11). Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be uncertain about their plans. Just over two in ten Panhandle residents (21%) are uncertain if they will move.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Twelve percent of persons age 19 to 29 are planning to move next year, compared to only six percent of persons age 65 and older. Persons age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to be uncertain if they will move.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be either planning to move from their community or uncertain of their plans. Persons who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to be planning to move from their community or uncertain if they plan to move. One-quarter of newcomers to the community are either planning to move from their community (11%) or uncertain of their plans (14%).

**Figure 11. Difficulty or Ease of Leaving Community by Region**



A follow-up question (asked only of those who indicated they were planning to move) asked to what size of community they were planning to move. The answer categories for this question were: in or near a community larger than your current one, in or near a community smaller than your current one, and in or near a community of the same size as your current one.

Most expected movers are planning to move to a larger community. Over six in ten expected movers (64%) are planning to move to a community larger than their current one (Figure 12). Fourteen percent are planning to move to a community smaller than their current one and 22 percent are planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

The expected destinations of those planning to move are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 12). The potential movers from the smallest communities are more likely than the potential movers from larger communities to be planning to move to a larger community than their

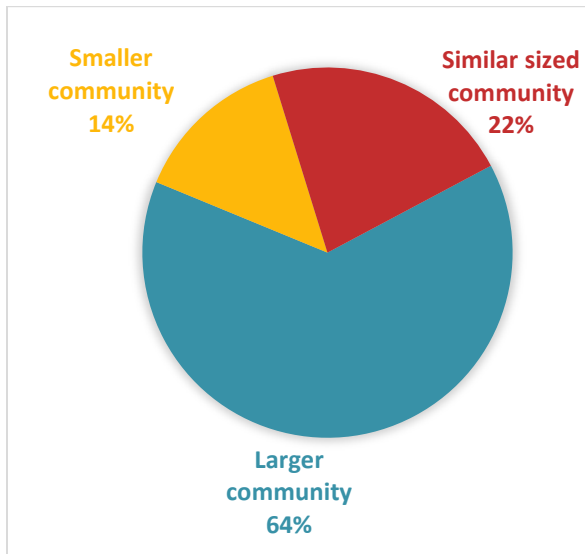
current one. Potential movers from the Southeast region are more likely than potential movers from other regions to be planning to move to a larger community.

The potential movers age 40 to 49 are the age group most likely to be planning to move to a larger community. The potential movers with higher education levels are more likely than the potential movers with less education to be planning to move to a larger community. Just over three-quarters of the potential movers with at least a four year degree are planning to move to a larger community, compared to 35 percent of the potential movers with a high school diploma or less education.

Just over two-thirds of the potential movers who are planning to leave the state (68%) expect to move to a larger community. Just over one-half of the potential movers planning to move to nonmetropolitan Nebraska (51%) expect to move to a larger community.

## Individual and Community Political Views

**Figure 12.** Size of Community Planning to Move to



Respondents were also asked to rate the political views they hold as well as the views of their community on social and economic issues. The specific question wording was, “Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?” They were given an eight-point scale ranging from extremely liberal to extremely conservative along with a don’t know option.

Most rural Nebraskans rate themselves as conservative on both economic and social issues. They also rate their community’s political views on both economic and social views as conservative. In fact, they view their community’s political views on social issues as

more conservative than their own. Fifty-two percent of rural Nebraskans have conservative views on social issues and 60 percent rate their community's political views on social issues as conservative (Figure 13).

The respondents' political views and their perceptions of the political views of their community are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 13). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have conservative views on economic issues. Over six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 have conservative views on economic issues, compared to 52 percent of persons living in or near the largest communities.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to say they have conservative political views on economic issues. Almost two-thirds persons with at least a four-year degree (65%) have conservative views on economic issues, compared to 47 percent of persons with a high

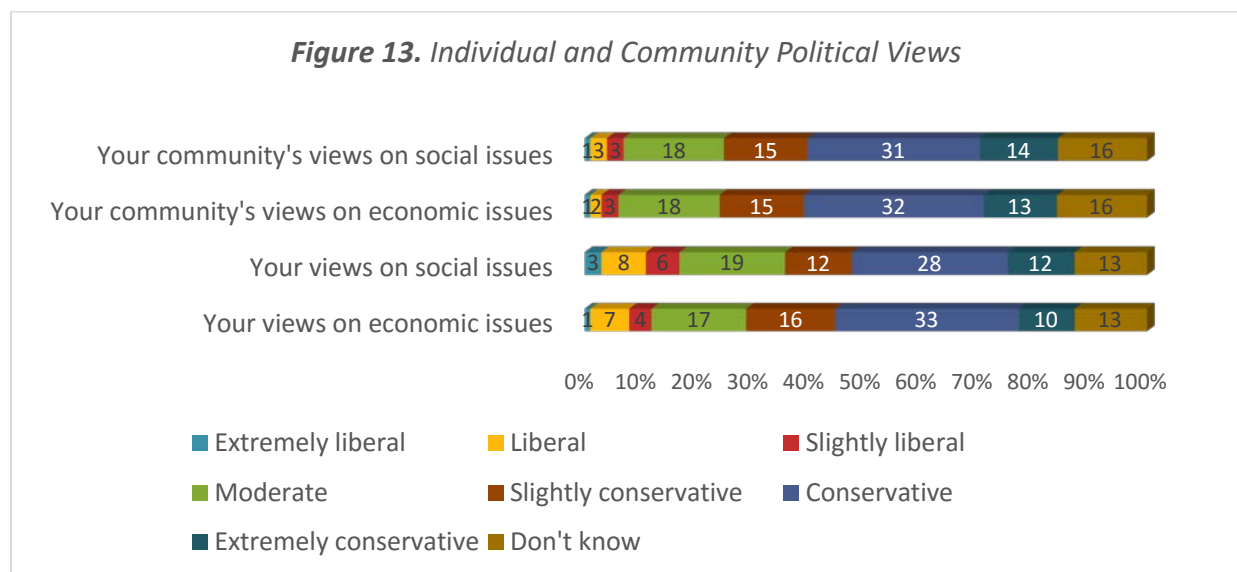
school diploma or less education (Figure 14).

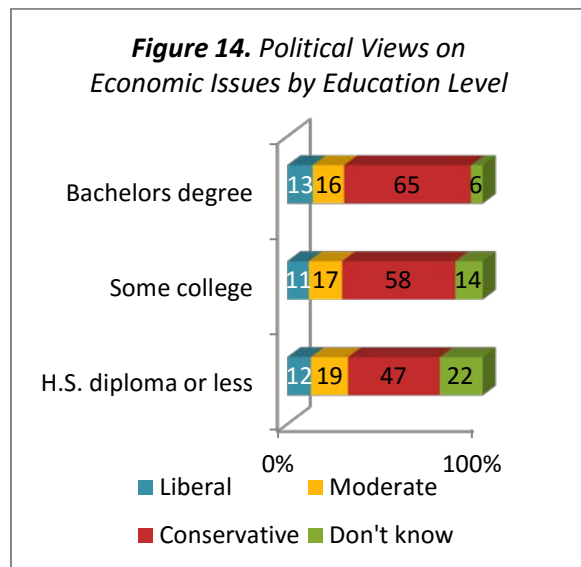
Other groups most likely to rate their views on economic issues as conservative include: persons with higher household incomes, males, married persons, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Males are more likely than females to say they have conservative political views on social issues. Almost six in ten males (58%) have conservative views on social issues, compared to 46 percent of females.

Other groups most likely to have conservative views on social issues include: persons living in or near smaller communities, persons with higher household incomes, married persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Persons living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both the smallest and largest communities to rate their community's political views on both economic and social issues as conservative. As an example, almost two-thirds of persons living





in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999 (65%) rate their community’s political views on economic issues as conservative. In comparison, one-half (50%) of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 rate their community’s political views on economic issues as conservative.

Other groups most likely to rate their community’s political views on both economic and social issues as conservative include: residents of the South Central region, residents of the Southeast region, persons with higher household incomes, persons age 30 to 39, males, married persons, persons with the highest education levels, persons with occupations in agriculture and newcomers to the community.

## Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2018)

Comparisons are made between the well-being data collected this year to the 22 previous studies. These comparisons show a clearer

picture of the trends in the well-being of rural Nebraskans.

### General Well-Being

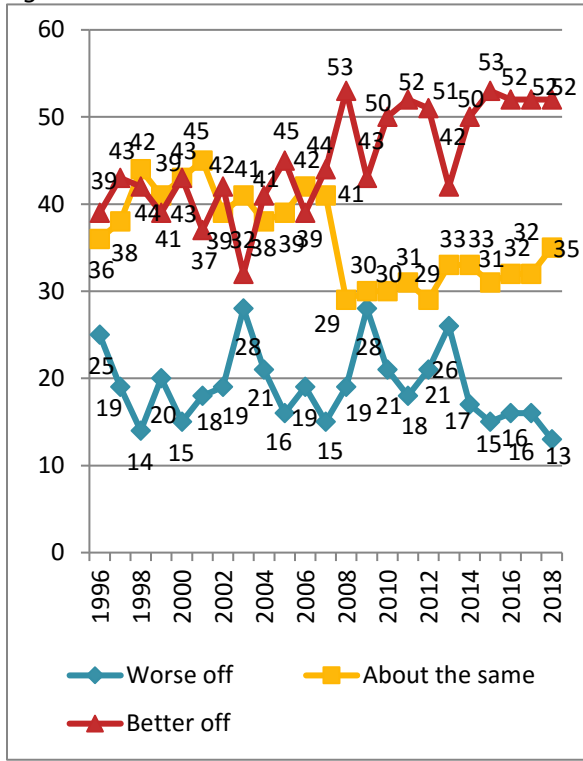
To examine perceptions of general well-being, respondents were asked four questions.

1. “All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than you were five years ago?” (Answer categories were worse off, about the same, or better off).
2. “All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than your parents when they were your age?”
3. “All things considered, do you think you will be better or worse off ten years from now than you are today?”
4. “Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives.”

The responses to the first three questions were expanded in 2009 to a five-point scale, where responses included much worse off, worse off, about the same, better off, and much better off. To compare the data to prior years, the much worse off and worse off categories are combined as well as the better off and much better off categories.

When examining the trends over the past 23 years, rural Nebraskans have generally given positive reviews about their current situation (Figure 15). Each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago, especially during the past five years when the gap between the two has widened. The average proportion saying they are better off than they were five years ago has been approximately 45 percent. The

**Figure 15. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2018**

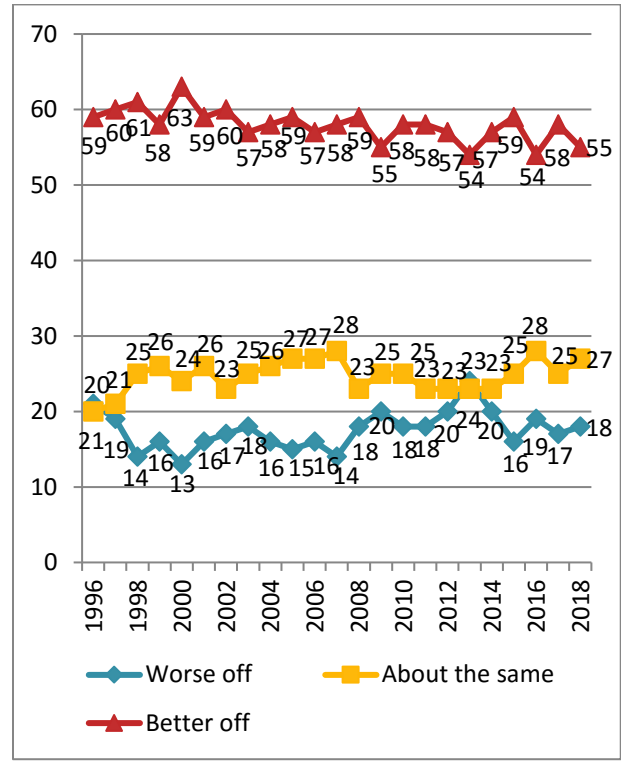


average proportion believing they are worse off has been approximately 19 percent.

This year, rural Nebraskans continue to feel positive about their current situation. Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans (52%) believe they are better off than they were five years ago (the same as the past two years). The proportion of rural Nebraskans who believe they are worse off than they were five years ago dropped slightly from 16 percent last year to 13 percent this year (the lowest proportion of all 23 years of this study).

When asked to compare themselves to their parents when they were their age, the responses have been generally very stable over time (Figure 16). The proportion stating they are better off has averaged approximately 58 percent over the 23 year period. The proportion

**Figure 16. Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2018**

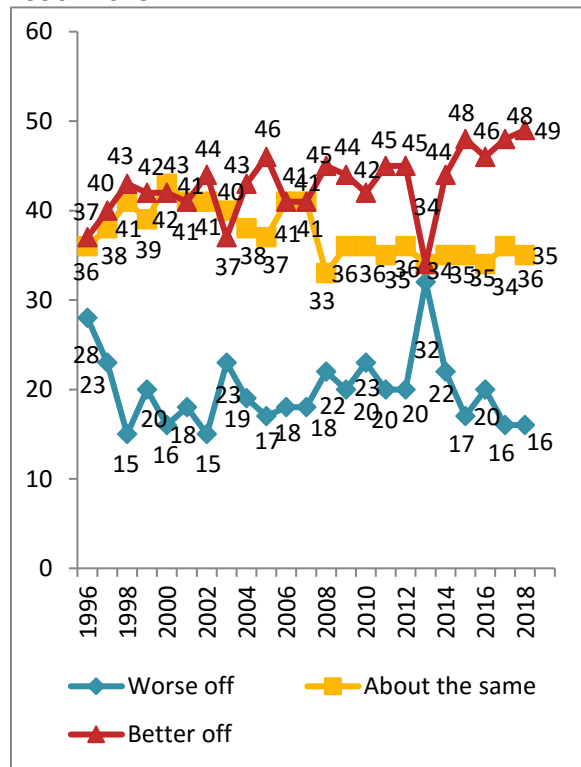


feeling they are worse off than their parents has remained steady at approximately 17 percent during this period.

When looking to the future, respondents' views have also been generally positive (Figure 17). The proportion saying they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now. In fact, the gap between the two has gradually widened since 2013.

This year, rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future continues to be optimistic. Almost one-half of rural Nebraskans (49%) believe they will be better off ten years from now. This is similar to the 48 percent reported last year. The proportion believing they will be better off has averaged approximately 43 percent across all 23 years.

**Figure 17. Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2018**



The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now remained steady at 16 percent this year. This proportion has averaged around 20 percent each year.

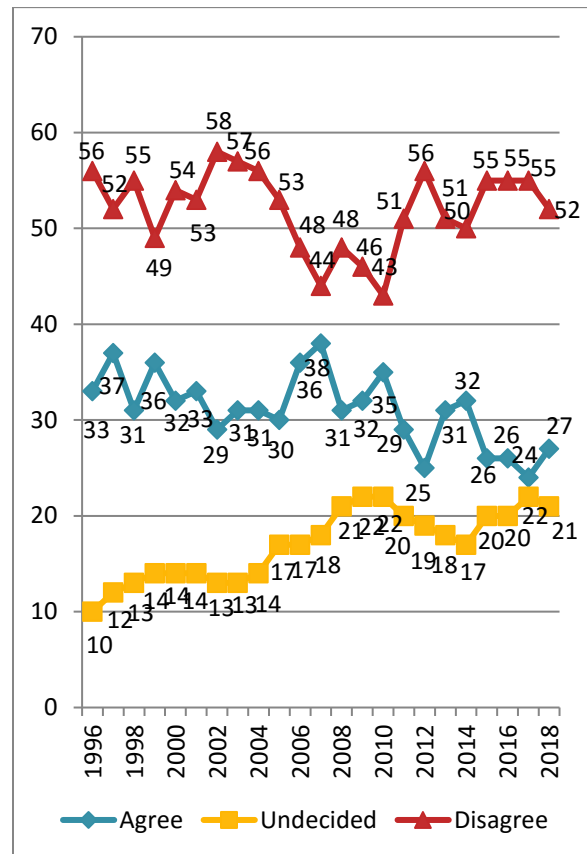
The proportion stating they will be about the same ten years from now had remained fairly steady around 40 percent over the first 12 years of the study, declined to 33 percent in 2008, and has remained around 35 percent the past ten years.

In addition to asking about general well-being, rural Nebraskans were asked about the amount of control they feel they have over their lives. To measure this, respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: *“Life has changed so much in our modern world*

*that most people are powerless to control their own lives.”*

Each year, more rural Nebraskans disagree that people are powerless to control their own lives than agree with that statement (Figure 18). The proportion that either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement generally declined between 2002 and 2010, from 58 percent to 43 percent (the lowest in the 23 year period). However, the proportion then increased to 56 percent in 2012 before declining to 50 percent in 2014. It then increased to 55 percent in 2014 before declining slightly to 52 percent this year which is the average proportion across all 23 years.

**Figure 18. “...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives”: 1996 - 2018**



The proportion of rural Nebraskans that either strongly agree or agree with the statement had remained fairly consistent each year, averaging around 31 percent, before generally declining to 24 percent last year (the lowest proportion in all 23 years), but slightly increased to 27 percent this year.

The proportion of those who were undecided each year first increased over time, from 10 percent in 1996 to 22 percent in 2010. It then declined to 17 percent in 2014 before increasing slightly to 21 percent this year.

### *Satisfaction with Specific Aspects of Life*

Each year, respondents were also given a list of items that can affect their well-being and were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with each using a five-point scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied). They were also given the option of checking a box to denote “does not apply.”

The rank ordering of the items has remained relatively stable over the years (Table 3). In addition, the proportion of respondents stating they were very or somewhat satisfied with each item also has been fairly consistent over the years.

Items generally fall into three levels of satisfaction ratings. Family, friends, the outdoors, their safety, and their general quality of life continue to be items given high satisfaction ratings by respondents. Items in the middle category include job satisfaction, their education, spirituality, job security, their health, their spare time and their community. On the other hand, respondents continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, their current income level, their ability to build assets/wealth and financial security during retirement.

One item (your education) had a decrease in the level of satisfaction this year as compared to last year. The proportion satisfied with their education declined from 77 percent last year to 71 percent this year.

## General Well-Being by Subgroups

In this section, the 2018 data on the four general measures of well-being are analyzed and reported for the region in which the respondent lives, by the size of their community, and for various individual characteristics (Appendix Table 14).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Almost eight in ten persons age 19 to 29 (77%) believe they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, just under one-third of persons age 65 and older (32%) share this opinion. Similarly, almost eight in ten persons age 19 to 29 (79%) believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to only 17 percent of persons age 65 and older (Figure 19). The oldest persons (age 65 and older) are the age group most likely to feel they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to feel they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. For example, 64 percent of respondents with household incomes of \$60,000 or more think they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, only 28 percent of

**Table 3. Proportions of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Factor, 1998 - 2018.\***

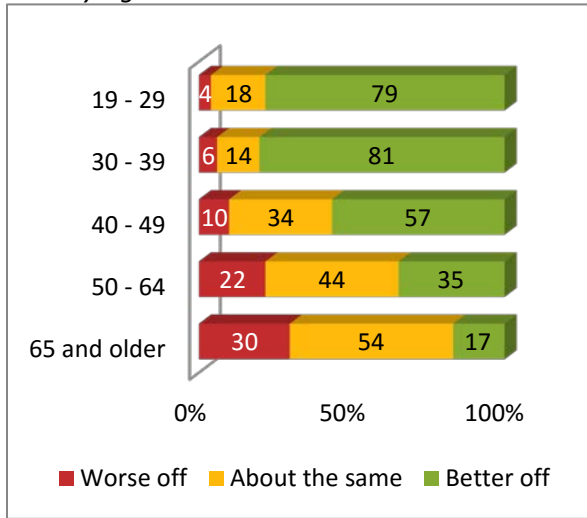
Item	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Your marriage	91	92	93	92	93	92	94	92	94	90	92	92	90	90	90	91	91	93	91	91	91
Your family	92	89	93	89	90	90	90	89	91	88	91	85	89	89	87	86	87	87	89	87	87
Your day to day personal safety	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	87	88	87	87	84
Your transpntn.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	82	85	87	84	83
Your general quality of life	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	82	84	86	81	83	83	83	84	82	82
Greenery and open space	90	87	86	86	87	82	80	83	85	80	82	80	81	82	84	74	82	82	83	83	81
Clean air	NA	NA	80	81	82	79	78	79	80	74	80	75	79	82	79	76	85	80	81	80	80
Your friends	87	84	87	86	85	85	86	83	84	82	85	82	84	84	81	80	79	80	81	80	78
Your general std of living	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	79	83	79	79	80	80	80	80	78
Clean water	NA	NA	73	75	76	75	73	73	74	68	76	72	77	78	76	77	80	76	75	76	76
Your housing	81	80	80	78	78	79	77	78	76	73	77	73	76	77	74	74	76	77	75	72	73
Your religion/spirituality	81	78	83	79	79	78	78	75	75	78	79	75	77	76	78	76	75	77	74	72	73
Your education	74	74	76	72	74	74	72	71	74	74	77	67	74	77	74	73	77	77	75	77	71
Your health	78	75	77	74	74	75	73	71	73	74	77	66	73	75	70	71	72	73	72	69	71
Your job satisfaction	69	66	70	69	70	68	72	72	69	68	76	71	70	72	71	72	73	74	75	71	70
Your job security	63	59	68	66	65	62	66	65	66	64	73	59	66	67	67	65	73	72	71	70	68
Your ability to afford residence	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	70	68	69	67
Your spare time	71	65	71	66	67	67	66	65	68	68	71	66	67	72	70	66	66	70	68	66	67
Your community	70	68	70	67	63	62	64	66	62	62	66	63	64	65	59	58	64	64	63	60	58
Your current income level	53	46	51	48	48	47	49	48	50	50	53	47	50	55	53	53	55	56	54	53	52
Your ability to bld assts/wealth	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	51	50	51	50
Fin. security in retirement	43	38	43	37	38	30	34	38	39	39	38	24	32	38	35	35	39	41	40	42	42
Job opportunities	38	37	36	38	37	35	34	39	43	40	48	32	42	38	46	44	44	46	43	43	41

Note: The list of items was not identical in each study. "NA" means that item was not asked that particular year.

\* The proportions were calculated out of those answering the question. The respondents checking "does not apply" were not included in the calculations.



**Figure 19. Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now by Age**



persons with household incomes under \$20,000 share this optimism. And, 60 percent of persons with household incomes over \$60,000 think they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to 27 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000.

Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age and will be better off ten years from now. Six in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree (60%) believe they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. Only 30 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education think they are better off than they were five years ago. And, almost six in ten persons with the highest education levels (58%) believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now. Only three in ten persons with a high school diploma or less education (30%) share this optimism.

Residents of the South Central region are more

likely than residents of other regions of the state to believe they are better off compared to five years ago. Almost six in ten residents of the South Central region (59%) believe they are better off compared to five years ago, compared to just over four in ten Panhandle residents (41%).

Males are more likely than females to think they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age. Females are more likely than males to believe they will be better off ten years from now. Just over one-half of females (53%) believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to 46 percent of males.

When comparing the marital groups, married persons and persons who have never married are the groups most likely to believe they are better off than they were five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Married persons are the group most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the occupation group most likely to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Persons with sales or office support occupations are the group most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. When analyzing the responses by region, community size, and various individual attributes, many differences emerge (Appendix Table 15).

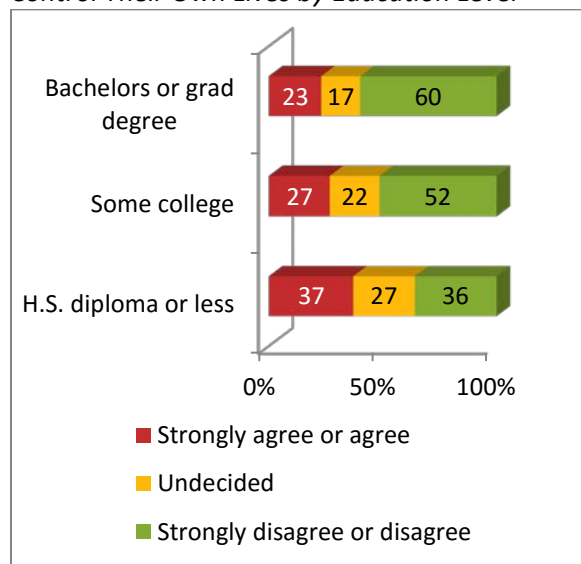
Persons with lower educational levels are more likely than persons with more education to

believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Almost four in ten persons with a high school diploma or less education (37%) agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 20). However, less than one-quarter (23%) of persons with at least a four-year college degree share this opinion.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Almost one-half of persons with the lowest household incomes (49%) agree that people are powerless to control their own lives, compared to just over two in ten of persons with the highest household incomes (21%).

The other groups most likely to believe people are powerless to control their own lives include: residents of the Southeast region, persons age 65 and older, and males. When comparing responses by marital status, married persons are the group *least* likely to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives.

**Figure 20. Belief that People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives by Education Level**



## Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups

The respondents were given a list of items that may influence their well-being and were asked to rate their satisfaction with each. The complete ratings for each item are listed in Appendix Table 16. At least four in ten respondents are very satisfied with their family (49%), their marriage (45%), greenery and open space (42%), and their day to day personal safety (41%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (19%), current income level (11%), and their job opportunities (10%).

The top five items people are dissatisfied with (determined by the largest proportions of “very dissatisfied” and “dissatisfied” responses) are examined in more detail by looking at how the different demographic subgroups view each item. These comparisons are shown in Appendix Table 17.

Respondents’ satisfaction level with their financial security during retirement differs by region as well as all of the individual characteristics examined. Residents of the Southeast region are *less* likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Three in ten Southeast region residents (30%) are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to at least four in ten residents of the other four regions.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Just over six in ten persons with household incomes under \$20,000 (61%) report being dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to 31

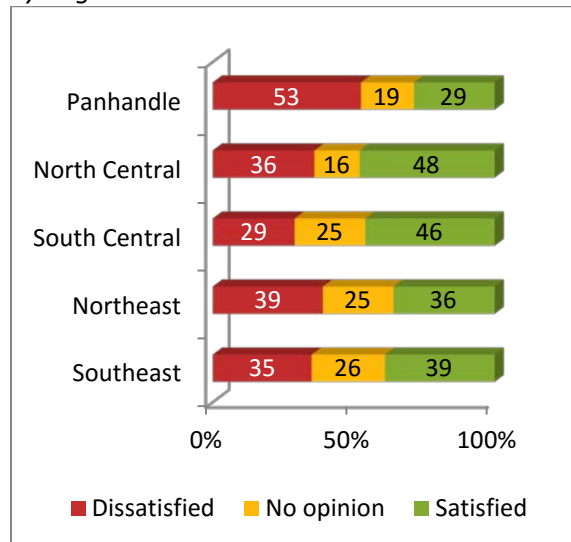
percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Persons between the ages of 40 and 49 are the age group most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Just over one-half of persons age 40 to 49 (53%) are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to 29 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement include: females, persons with some college education, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their job opportunities. Just over one-half of Panhandle residents (53%) report dissatisfaction with their job opportunities, compared to 29 percent of residents of the South Central region (Figure 21).

**Figure 21. Satisfaction with Job Opportunities by Region**



Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher household incomes to report being dissatisfied with their job opportunities. Over one-half of persons with household incomes under \$40,000 are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 28 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with their job opportunities. Almost one-half of persons with these types of occupations (48%) are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 25 percent of persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Other groups most likely to say they are dissatisfied with their job opportunities include: the youngest persons, persons with lower education levels, persons who are divorced or separated and persons who have never married.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher household incomes to be dissatisfied with their current income level. Over six in ten persons with household incomes under \$20,000 (63%) report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to 22 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their current income level include: persons age 19 to 29, persons with lower education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher household

incomes to express dissatisfaction with their ability to build assets/wealth. Just over one-half of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 (51%) are dissatisfied with their ability to build assets/wealth. In comparison, only 20 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more share this dissatisfaction.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their ability to build assets/wealth include: persons age 40 to 49, persons with lower education levels, divorced or separated respondents, persons with food service or personal care occupations and persons with occupations in production, transportation or warehousing.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their ability to afford their residence. Four in ten persons with household incomes under \$20,000 (40%) are dissatisfied with their ability to afford their residence, compared to 11 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their ability to afford their residence include: females, persons with lower education levels, persons who have never married, divorced or separated respondents, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

The top five items people are satisfied with (determined by the largest proportions of “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses) are also examined (Appendix Table 18). Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to report being satisfied with their marriage.

Married persons are more likely than other marital groups to express satisfaction with their family. Nine in ten married persons (90%) are

satisfied with their family, compared to 71 percent of persons who have never married.

Other groups most likely to be satisfied with their family include: persons with higher household incomes, persons age 30 to 49, females, and persons with the highest education levels.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near the largest communities to be satisfied with their day to day personal safety. At least 85 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 10,000 are satisfied with their day to day personal safety, compared to 79 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to report satisfaction with their day to day personal safety. Almost nine in ten persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more (89%) are satisfied with their day to day personal safety, compared to approximately 74 percent of persons with household incomes under \$40,000.

Other groups most likely to express satisfaction with their day to day personal safety include: persons with higher education levels, married persons, persons with food service or personal care occupations and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to report satisfaction with their transportation. Almost nine in ten persons with the highest household incomes (89%) are satisfied with their transportation, compared to 68 percent of persons with the lowest household incomes.

Other groups most likely to be satisfied with their transportation include persons with higher education levels and married persons.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to be satisfied with their general quality of life. Just under nine in ten persons with the highest household incomes (89%) report being satisfied with their general quality of life, compared to just under two-thirds of persons with the lowest household incomes (65%).

Other groups most likely to report satisfaction with their general quality of life include: residents of the Southeast region, residents of the South Central region, persons age 30 to 39, persons with higher education levels, and married persons. When comparing responses by occupation, persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are the group *least* likely to be satisfied with their general quality of life. Just over two-thirds of persons with these types of occupations are satisfied with their general quality of life, compared to at least eight in ten persons with different occupations.

## **Conclusion**

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By many different measures, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community. Many rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions. Most rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community. Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community. Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future. Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive. The proportion believing their community has changed for the better during the past year has

usually been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially during the past seven years when the gap between the two has widened. And, rural Nebraskans' optimism about the expected change in their community ten years from now has increased during the past seven years.

Many differences by community size are detected. Residents of larger communities are more likely than residents of smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year and will be a better place to live ten years from now. And, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have their needs met in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to feel like they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community and that people in their community are good at influencing each other.

Except for some services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities. Rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with: fire protection, parks and recreation, library services, education (K-12), religious organizations, and law enforcement. On the other hand, at least one-third of rural Nebraskans are dissatisfied with the retail shopping, entertainment, streets and roads, restaurants, quality of housing, arts/cultural activities, cost of housing, and Internet services in their community. The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased across all 22 years of the study. Declines in satisfaction levels across all 22 years are seen

with nursing home care, medical care services, senior centers, mental health services, entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants.

Many rural Nebraskans say that people in their community are discussing political issues more often than they have in the past five years.

Most rural Nebraskans rate themselves as having conservative political views on both economic and social issues. They also rate their community's political views on both economic and social views as conservative. In fact, they view their community's political views on social issues as more conservative than their own.

This year, rural Nebraskans continue to be positive about their current situation. Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans believe they are better off than they were five years ago (the same as the past two years). Each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago, especially during the past five years when the gap between the two has widened.

Similarly, rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future continues to be optimistic. Almost one-half of rural Nebraskans believe they will be better off ten years from now. Across all 23 years of this study, the proportion saying they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now. In fact, the gap between the two has gradually widened since 2013.

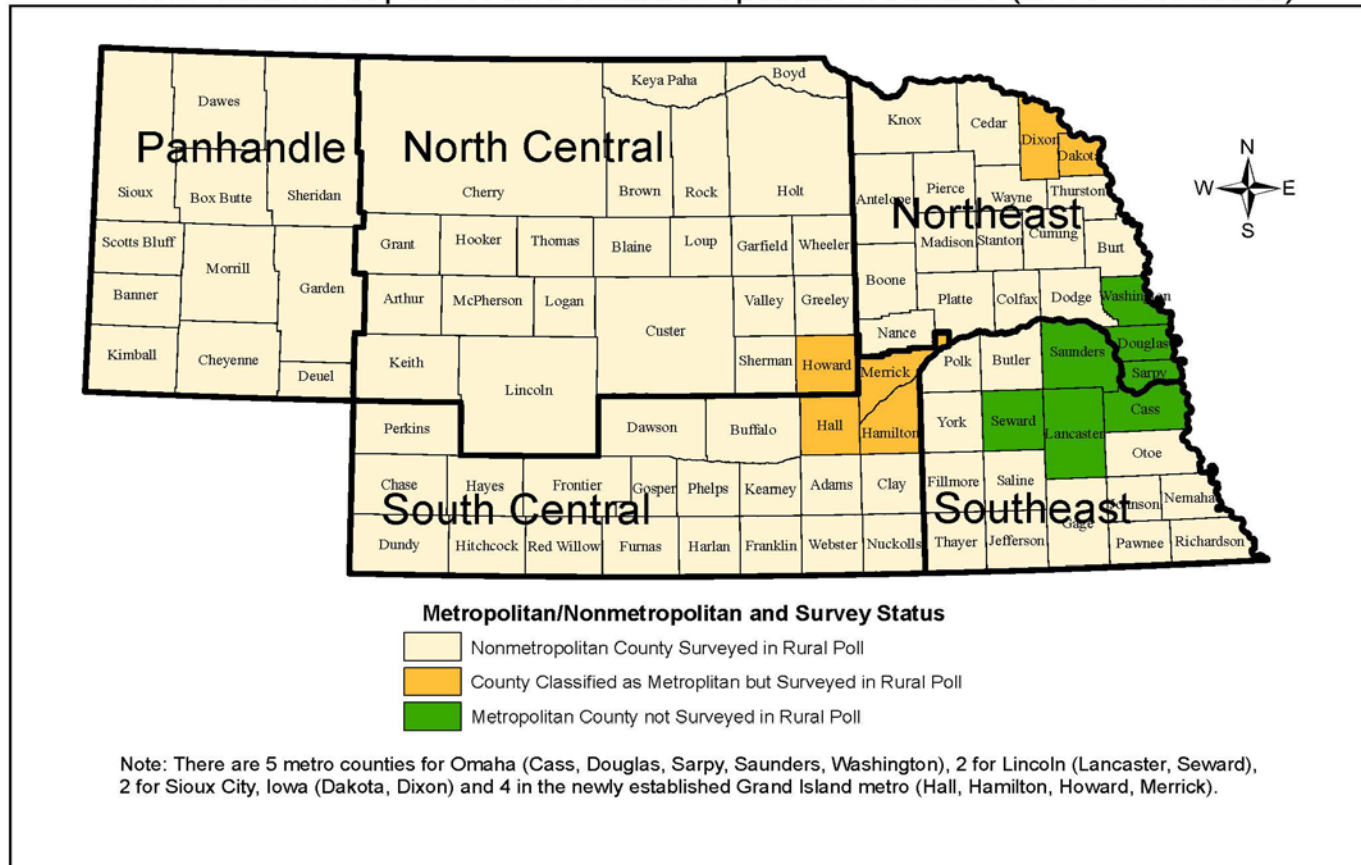
Following trends in previous years, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with their marriage, family, friends, the outdoors, their safety and their general quality of life. They continue to be less satisfied with job

opportunities, current income level, their ability to build assets/wealth and financial security during retirement.

In many measures, Panhandle residents are more likely than resident of other regions of the state to report dissatisfaction or pessimism.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13  
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

**Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2012 – 2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska\***

	<b>2018 Poll</b>	<b>2017 Poll</b>	<b>2016 Poll</b>	<b>2015 Poll</b>	<b>2014 Poll</b>	<b>2013 Poll</b>	<b>2012 - 2016 ACS</b>
<b>Age : <sup>2</sup></b>							
20 - 39	32%	32%	31%	31%	32%	31%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	45%	45%	46%	44%	44%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	25%
<b>Gender: <sup>3</sup></b>							
Female	55%	56%	59%	58%	57%	51%	51%
Male	46%	44%	41%	42%	43%	49%	49%
<b>Education: <sup>4</sup></b>							
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	7%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	18%	18%	21%	22%	18%	23%	32%
Some college, no degree	23%	22%	21%	23%	23%	25%	26%
Associate degree	17%	16%	19%	15%	16%	15%	11%
Bachelors degree	25%	25%	23%	24%	24%	22%	14%
Graduate or professional degree	13%	16%	14%	13%	16%	12%	5%
<b>Household Income: <sup>5</sup></b>							
Less than \$10,000	3%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6%	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	11%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	8%	7%	11%	9%	8%	13%	12%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	10%	11%	11%	9%	14%	10%	11%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	10%	13%	11%	12%	12%	15%	10%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	12%	13%	11%	11%	13%	10%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	17%	12%	14%	15%	13%	11%	12%
\$75,000 or more	33%	34%	32%	32%	29%	29%	29%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>6</sup></b>							
Married	71%	68%	69%	68%	68%	70%	62%
Never married	10%	13%	11%	13%	12%	12%	18%
Divorced/separated	11%	11%	10%	10%	12%	9%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	8%

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

<sup>2</sup> 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>3</sup> 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>4</sup> 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

<sup>5</sup> 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

<sup>6</sup> 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

\*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.



**Appendix Table 2. Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<b>Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...</b>				
<b>My community has changed for the</b>				
	<u>Worse</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Better</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<b>Total</b>	19	46	36	
		<i>Percentages</i>		
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1453)		
Less than 500	19	54	27	
500 - 999	14	53	34	
1,000 - 4,999	20	42	38	$\chi^2 = 24.97^*$ (.002)
5,000 - 9,999	23	45	32	
10,000 and up	19	41	41	
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1481)		
Panhandle	34	44	22	
North Central	26	45	29	
South Central	16	42	42	$\chi^2 = 61.63^*$ (.000)
Northeast	14	45	41	
Southeast	16	54	30	
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1401)		
Under \$20,000	24	47	29	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	19	52	29	$\chi^2 = 13.37^*$ (.038)
\$40,000 - \$59,999	20	41	40	
\$60,000 and over	18	45	38	
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1482)		
19 - 29	8	52	40	
30 - 39	20	45	36	
40 - 49	13	46	41	$\chi^2 = 42.42^*$ (.000)
50 - 64	26	44	30	
65 and older	24	42	34	
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1479)		
Male	21	46	33	$\chi^2 = 3.66$ (.160)
Female	18	45	37	
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1452)		
Married	18	46	36	
Never married	19	45	36	
Divorced/separated	22	49	29	$\chi^2 = 5.33$ (.503)
Widowed	20	40	40	
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1475)		
H.S. diploma or less	21	50	29	
Some college	19	49	32	$\chi^2 = 22.07^*$ (.000)
Bachelors or grad degree	19	39	42	
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1046)		
Mgt, prof or education	17	39	44	
Sales or office support	17	41	42	
Constrn, inst or maint	23	61	16	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	22	52	27	
Agriculture	21	49	30	
Food serv/pers. care	10	34	56	
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	47	36	$\chi^2 = 44.03^*$ (.000)
Other	14	51	34	
<b>Yrs Lived in Community</b>		(n = 1425)		
Five years or less	13	58	29	$\chi^2 = 21.16^*$ (.000)
More than five years	20	43	37	

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 3. Expectations of Future Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<i>Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?</i>				
	<u>Worse Place</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>Better Place</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<b>Total</b>	21	50	29	
<i>Percentages</i>				
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1462)		
Less than 500	28	55	17	
500 - 999	24	55	22	
1,000 - 4,999	19	49	33	$\chi^2 = 38.80^*$ (.000)
5,000 - 9,999	20	56	24	
10,000 and up	19	45	35	
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1490)		
Panhandle	28	49	23	
North Central	25	54	21	
South Central	19	44	37	$\chi^2 = 39.93^*$ (.000)
Northeast	16	55	29	
Southeast	25	53	22	
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1410)		
Under \$20,000	27	46	26	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	24	47	30	$\chi^2 = 6.14$ (.407)
\$40,000 - \$59,999	22	48	30	
\$60,000 and over	19	52	29	
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1495)		
19 - 29	21	39	41	
30 - 39	20	51	29	
40 - 49	19	50	32	$\chi^2 = 32.00^*$ (.000)
50 - 64	24	54	22	
65 and older	22	55	24	
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1489)		
Male	24	50	26	$\chi^2 = 6.05^*$ (.049)
Female	19	50	30	
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1460)		
Married	21	51	28	
Never married	25	42	33	
Divorced/separated	24	51	25	$\chi^2 = 12.63^*$ (.049)
Widowed	14	63	23	
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1485)		
H.S. diploma or less	21	61	18	
Some college	23	50	27	$\chi^2 = 36.27^*$ (.000)
Bachelors or grad degree	20	44	36	
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1056)		
Mgt, prof or education	19	46	35	
Sales or office support	22	43	34	
Constrn, inst or maint	25	56	18	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	23	51	26	
Agriculture	22	59	19	
Food serv/pers. care	12	51	37	
Hlthcare supp/safety	26	42	32	$\chi^2 = 29.43^*$ (.009)
Other	27	53	21	
<b>Yrs Lived in Community</b>		(n = 1434)		
Five years or less	16	53	32	$\chi^2 = 6.07^*$ (.048)
More than five years	22	50	28	

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 4. Measures of Community Attributes in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>		<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>		<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>		<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	
<b>Total</b>	9	15	76		14	21	65		12	19	69
	<i>Percentages</i>										
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1443)				(n = 1429)				(n = 1424)		
Less than 500	8	17	75		12	16	72		11	17	72
500 - 999	7	8	85		13	16	71		11	13	76
1,000 - 4,999	8	15	77	$\chi^2 =$	11	23	67	$\chi^2 =$	10	21	68
5,000 - 9,999	11	15	74	14.29	20	23	57	24.54*	10	28	62
10,000 and up	11	17	72	(.074)	16	24	60	(.002)	15	18	68
	<i>Percentages</i>										
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1467)				(n = 1459)				(n = 1450)		
Panhandle	13	21	66		16	27	57		14	32	54
North Central	9	13	78		12	21	68		11	24	65
South Central	8	14	78	$\chi^2 =$	14	22	64	$\chi^2 =$	15	15	70
Northeast	9	15	76	11.19	11	18	71	15.20	6	20	74
Southeast	8	15	77	(.191)	18	20	63	(.055)	12	14	73
	<i>Percentages</i>										
<b>Individual Attributes</b>	(n = 1393)				(n = 1379)				(n = 1371)		
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 1393)				(n = 1379)				(n = 1371)		
Under \$20,000	17	20	64		18	23	59		16	21	63
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9	15	75	$\chi^2 =$	17	32	51	$\chi^2 =$	15	23	63
\$40,000 - \$59,999	9	15	76	13.73*	11	17	72	34.65*	11	22	67
\$60,000 and over	8	14	78	(.033)	14	18	68	(.000)	11	17	72
	<i>Percentages</i>										
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1472)				(n = 1462)				(n = 1453)		
19 - 29	6	10	83		14	14	71		6	10	83
30 - 39	10	11	79		17	19	64		14	25	62
40 - 49	8	17	75	$\chi^2 =$	12	25	63	$\chi^2 =$	12	19	69
50 - 64	10	17	73	14.11	14	21	65	13.24	15	21	64
65 and older	10	17	73	(.079)	13	24	64	(.104)	11	21	68
	<i>Percentages</i>										
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1468)				(n = 1457)				(n = 1450)		
Male	10	14	76	$\chi^2 =$	14	20	66	$\chi^2 =$	8	20	72
Female	8	16	76	1.76	14	22	65	0.32	15	19	66
	<i>Percentages</i>										

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>		<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>		<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1442)				(n = 1429)				(n = 1422)			
Married	9	14	77		14	19	67		11	18	71	
Never married	7	14	79	$\chi^2 =$	20	25	55	$\chi^2 =$	17	19	64	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	13	18	69	7.40	13	28	59	15.07*	15	22	63	9.33
Widowed	9	19	73	(.285)	11	24	65	(.020)	13	23	64	(.156)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1466)				(n = 1454)				(n = 1446)			
H.S. diploma or less	12	20	68	$\chi^2 =$	17	23	60	$\chi^2 =$	16	21	63	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	7	14	79	14.20*	13	20	67	4.33	12	16	72	12.11*
Bachelors degree	9	14	77	(.007)	13	21	66	(.363)	10	22	68	(.017)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1048)				(n = 1048)				(n = 1043)			
Mgt, prof or education	10	12	79		16	18	66		9	21	70	
Sales or office support	8	11	81		11	19	70		12	15	73	
Constrn, inst or maint	9	16	74		18	25	58		8	31	61	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	8	15	78		16	29	55		15	19	66	
Agriculture	11	13	76	$\chi^2 =$	12	21	66	$\chi^2 =$	8	18	74	$\chi^2 =$
Food serv/pers. care	8	10	82	10.23	12	21	67	16.08	20	14	66	27.67*
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	16	80	(.745)	10	21	69	(.309)	15	12	73	(.016)
Other	3	18	79		9	31	60		6	22	72	
<i>Yrs Lived in Comm.</i>	(n = 1414)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1406)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1399)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	8	9	82	7.50*	12	14	75	12.29*	9	19	72	2.08
More than five years	9	16	75	(.024)	14	22	64	(.002)	12	20	68	(.353)

\*

Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 5. Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<i>Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future.</i>				
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	63	21	16	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1466)		
Less than 500	57	22	21	
500 - 999	65	24	11	
1,000 - 4,999	65	18	17	
5,000 - 9,999	61	22	18	$\chi^2 = 10.84$
10,000 and up	63	21	16	(.211)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1490)		
Panhandle	57	19	25	
North Central	61	20	19	
South Central	68	20	13	
Northeast	60	26	14	$\chi^2 = 24.73^*$
Southeast	63	19	19	(.002)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1414)		
Under \$20,000	50	30	20	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	47	33	21	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	64	17	19	$\chi^2 = 67.97^*$
\$60,000 and over	71	16	13	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1496)		
19 - 29	67	14	19	
30 - 39	64	21	15	
40 - 49	71	22	8	
50 - 64	60	22	18	$\chi^2 = 35.90^*$
65 and older	54	25	21	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1492)		
Male	57	23	20	$\chi^2 = 18.03^*$
Female	67	20	13	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1463)		
Married	67	18	16	
Never married	50	35	15	
Divorced/separated	49	30	21	$\chi^2 = 43.40^*$
Widowed	52	29	19	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1488)		
H.S. diploma or less	43	35	22	
Some college	63	23	14	$\chi^2 = 90.11^*$
Bachelors degree	73	12	15	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1058)		
Mgt, prof, education	73	16	12	
Sales/office support	68	16	16	
Const, inst or maint	56	24	20	
Prodn/trans/warehs	45	33	22	
Agriculture	66	10	25	
Food serv/pers. care	73	14	14	
Hlthcare supp/safety	69	18	13	$\chi^2 = 52.16^*$
Other	54	34	11	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1436)		
Five years or less	66	21	14	$\chi^2 = 1.31$
More than five years	63	21	16	(.520)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level

**Appendix Table 6. Level of Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities**

<i>Service/Amenity</i>	<i>Dissatisfied*</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied*</i>
		<i>Percentages</i>	
Retail shopping	50	15	35
Entertainment	48	23	29
Streets and roads	48	7	45
Restaurants	45	10	45
Quality of housing	39	15	47
Arts/cultural activities	38	36	26
Cost of housing	37	17	46
Internet service	34	13	53
Local government	31	30	39
Cellular phone service	31	10	59
Public transportation services	30	50	21
Mental health services	30	51	19
Community recycling	29	20	51
Medical care services	25	16	59
Child day care services	23	47	30
Nursing home care	23	39	38
Law enforcement	19	16	66
Access to higher education (college, technical, etc.)	16	26	58
Senior centers	14	42	45
Education (K - 12)	14	17	69
Parks and recreation	13	13	74
Head Start or early childhood education programs	11	52	37
Sewage/waste disposal	11	22	67
Civic/nonprofit organizations	9	44	48
Library services	7	19	74
Religious organizations	6	28	67
Fire protection	3	9	89

\* Dissatisfied represents the combined percentage of “very dissatisfied” and “somewhat dissatisfied” responses. Similarly, satisfied is the combination of “very satisfied” and “somewhat satisfied” responses.

**Appendix Table 7. Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

	<i>Retail shopping</i>			<i>Entertainment</i>			<i>Streets and roads</i>			<i>Restaurants</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1469)			(n = 1469)			(n = 1477)			(n = 1471)		
Less than 500	51	23	27	46	33	22	51	4	46	42	17	41
500 - 999	49	27	25	49	31	20	49	15	36	51	10	39
1,000 - 4,999	47	14	39	52	22	26	43	5	52	51	8	41
5,000 - 9,999	59	10	32	54	19	28	49	5	46	52	11	38
10,000 and over	52	7	41	44	17	39	51	8	41	37	9	55
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 72.66^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 53.61^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 39.36^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 43.17^* (.000)$		
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1496)			(n = 1496)			(n = 1504)			(n = 1497)		
Panhandle	63	9	28	55	20	25	54	10	36	58	11	31
North Central	56	14	30	51	20	29	47	8	45	40	10	51
South Central	43	16	40	40	26	34	40	7	53	37	11	52
Northeast	53	14	34	51	20	29	59	6	36	45	8	48
Southeast	46	20	34	52	28	20	45	7	48	55	13	33
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 31.56^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 31.08^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 37.65^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 47.42^* (.000)$		
<b>Income Level</b>	(n = 1421)			(n = 1419)			(n = 1424)			(n = 1419)		
Under \$20,000	41	19	40	48	26	25	52	9	39	42	13	46
\$20,000 - \$39,999	52	12	36	51	27	22	55	8	36	48	9	44
\$40,000 - \$59,999	55	13	32	55	19	26	42	6	52	48	11	42
\$60,000 and over	50	16	34	46	21	33	48	7	45	45	9	46
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 9.09 (.168)$			$\chi^2 = 17.57^* (.007)$			$\chi^2 = 16.17^* (.013)$			$\chi^2 = 3.85 (.697)$		
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1502)			(n = 1498)			(n = 1508)			(n = 1504)		
19 - 29	51	14	35	53	22	25	43	8	49	51	6	43
30 - 39	44	19	38	49	16	35	44	8	48	48	10	42
40 - 49	52	17	31	49	21	30	54	5	40	42	9	49
50 - 64	55	14	31	51	23	26	50	6	43	47	13	40
65 and over	48	14	39	40	32	29	46	8	45	39	12	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 12.37 (.136)$			$\chi^2 = 28.48^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 11.63 (.168)$			$\chi^2 = 17.87^* (.022)$		
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1492)			(n = 1493)			(n = 1500)			(n = 1495)		
H.S. diploma or less	48	18	34	46	33	20	56	7	37	38	16	46
Some college	52	17	32	52	24	24	51	9	40	50	9	41
College grad	50	12	37	45	18	37	41	6	53	43	8	48
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 8.83 (.066)$			$\chi^2 = 51.70^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 30.19^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 24.46^* (.000)$		
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1064)			(n = 1065)			(n = 1064)			(n = 1057)		
Mgt, prof, education	51	12	37	46	17	37	42	8	50	44	7	49
Sales/office support	50	14	37	57	18	25	45	8	47	50	8	42
Const, inst or maint	52	8	40	53	24	23	57	7	36	48	18	33
Prodn/trans/warehs	48	11	41	50	34	17	56	4	39	36	14	50
Agriculture	42	28	30	41	34	25	52	4	45	47	16	38
Food serv/pers. care	59	7	34	53	18	28	50	5	45	42	5	53
Hlthcare supp/safety	55	19	26	59	14	27	49	10	41	54	7	39
Other	54	9	37	35	21	44	35	3	62	38	9	53
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 38.16^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 52.26^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 21.10 (.099)$			$\chi^2 = 33.88^* (.002)$		

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	<i>Quality of housing</i>			<i>Arts/cultural activities</i>			<i>Cost of housing</i>			<i>Internet service</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1474)			(n = 1471)			(n = 1479)			(n = 1467)		
Less than 500	39	23	39	45	42	13	18	28	54	38	15	46
500 - 999	42	16	43	38	44	18	20	20	60	32	15	53
1,000 - 4,999	39	15	47	43	35	23	32	20	48	38	12	50
5,000 - 9,999	40	11	49	38	34	28	44	13	44	32	12	56
10,000 and over	36	12	51	33	31	36	57	9	34	32	10	58
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 21.32^* (.006)$			$\chi^2 = 59.16^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 159.73^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 13.62 (.092)$		
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1500)			(n = 1498)			(n = 1506)			(n = 1492)		
Panhandle	51	13	37	44	29	27	45	17	38	28	15	57
North Central	44	16	39	40	34	26	43	20	37	31	15	54
South Central	32	15	53	30	42	28	42	14	44	36	10	53
Northeast	37	15	48	41	32	26	34	19	47	36	11	53
Southeast	38	15	47	44	39	18	21	19	61	35	15	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 25.07^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 28.56^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 53.05^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 10.87 (.209)$		
<b>Income Level</b>	(n = 1422)			(n = 1420)			(n = 1427)			(n = 1417)		
Under \$20,000	49	18	33	33	41	27	40	20	40	20	27	54
\$20,000 - \$39,999	41	15	44	36	44	20	44	20	36	35	19	46
\$40,000 - \$59,999	30	16	54	46	33	22	36	18	47	40	10	50
\$60,000 and over	40	12	48	39	33	28	34	13	53	36	8	56
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 22.49^* (.001)$			$\chi^2 = 21.34^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 26.45^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 60.69^* (.000)$		
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1506)			(n = 1502)			(n = 1508)			(n = 1496)		
19 - 29	43	4	53	37	47	16	37	8	55	37	10	53
30 - 39	41	11	48	49	28	24	42	12	47	46	7	47
40 - 49	41	17	42	39	34	28	44	12	44	39	9	53
50 - 64	40	18	42	41	36	24	37	21	43	36	12	52
65 and over	30	20	50	29	38	33	28	28	44	20	22	58
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 44.39^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 45.01^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 63.81^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 73.88^* (.000)$		
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1497)			(n = 1495)			(n = 1502)			(n = 1492)		
H.S. diploma or less	37	21	42	34	46	20	38	21	41	28	20	52
Some college	39	16	46	41	40	19	35	18	47	37	13	50
College grad	39	11	50	38	27	35	39	14	48	35	9	56
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 17.23^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 62.97^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 9.37 (.052)$			$\chi^2 = 27.93^* (.000)$		
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1066)			(n = 1065)			(n = 1067)			(n = 1064)		
Mgt, prof, education	45	10	45	39	29	32	44	10	46	38	10	52
Sales/office support	34	13	53	48	27	25	37	18	45	46	5	50
Const, inst or maint	30	18	52	38	44	18	33	13	55	31	15	55
Prodn/trans/warehs	33	20	47	38	43	19	47	10	44	35	15	50
Agriculture	44	17	39	27	55	19	18	26	57	33	11	56
Food serv/pers. care	40	10	50	56	35	9	54	9	37	42	7	51
Hlthcare supp/safety	34	11	55	57	25	18	46	14	40	45	4	50
Other	47	6	47	35	21	44	56	9	35	35	12	53
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 27.02^* (.019)$			$\chi^2 = 79.98^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 58.34^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 20.88 (.105)$		

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.



Appendix Table 7 continued.

	<i>Local government</i>			<i>Cellular phone service</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1474)			(n = 1471)	
Less than 500	28	35	37	45	11	44
500 - 999	24	32	44	32	10	58
1,000 - 4,999	33	32	35	33	8	60
5,000 - 9,999	37	25	38	25	16	60
10,000 and over	33	26	41	23	10	67
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 16.91^* (.031)$			$\chi^2 = 49.99^* (.000)$	
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1499)			(n = 1498)	
Panhandle	41	28	31	36	16	49
North Central	31	31	38	32	10	59
South Central	25	32	43	27	10	63
Northeast	32	27	41	32	11	58
Southeast	36	31	34	31	8	62
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 23.17^* (.003)$			$\chi^2 = 15.82^* (.045)$	
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1424)			(n = 1420)	
Under \$20,000	38	31	32	25	16	59
\$20,000 - \$39,999	37	34	30	32	17	52
\$40,000 - \$59,999	27	33	40	36	9	55
\$60,000 and over	30	28	42	29	7	64
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 19.13^* (.004)$			$\chi^2 = 34.41^* (.000)$	
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1503)			(n = 1502)	
19 - 29	25	49	27	43	8	49
30 - 39	29	37	35	36	7	57
40 - 49	31	28	41	32	9	58
50 - 64	36	26	39	30	12	59
65 and over	33	19	48	18	14	68
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 72.10^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 52.86^* (.000)$	
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1496)			(n = 1495)	
H.S. diploma or less	37	24	39	27	15	58
Some college	32	34	34	32	11	57
College grad	27	29	44	31	7	62
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 22.96^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 18.70^* (.001)$	
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1062)			(n = 1065)	
Mgt, prof, education	25	30	45	33	9	58
Sales/office support	34	25	41	34	6	60
Const, inst or maint	48	25	27	28	8	64
Prodn/trans/warehs	49	26	26	33	14	53
Agriculture	32	25	43	41	7	52
Food serv/pers. care	28	48	24	37	5	58
Hlthcare supp/safety	25	44	31	36	10	54
Other	15	32	53	34	14	51
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 65.31^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 12.50 (.566)$	

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

**Appendix Table 8. Feelings About Community By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.**

	<i>I can get what I need in this community.</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>This community helps me fulfill my needs.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>		<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	32	15	54		24	24	52	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1486)				(n = 1481)			
Less than 500	42	17	41		27	27	45	
500 - 999	44	12	44		24	30	46	
1,000 - 4,999	26	16	59		22	20	58	
5,000 - 9,999	34	18	49	$\chi^2 = 60.36^*$	30	23	48	$\chi^2 = 19.11^*$
10,000 and up	25	11	64	(.000)	23	22	55	(.014)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1513)				(n = 1508)			
Panhandle	32	19	49		27	23	51	
North Central	32	14	54		25	24	50	
South Central	28	11	61		21	22	58	
Northeast	34	15	52	$\chi^2 = 18.91^*$	26	22	53	$\chi^2 = 14.66$
Southeast	34	18	48	(.015)	26	29	44	(.066)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1434)				(n = 1433)			
Under \$20,000	41	21	38		35	25	40	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	36	19	45		31	23	46	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	36	12	52	$\chi^2 = 43.46^*$	27	22	51	$\chi^2 = 31.75^*$
\$60,000 and over	26	12	62	(.000)	19	25	57	(.000)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1517)				(n = 1514)			
19 - 29	18	18	65		18	23	59	
30 - 39	28	12	60		24	24	53	
40 - 49	30	11	59		18	21	61	
50 - 64	38	18	44	$\chi^2 = 55.27^*$	33	27	41	$\chi^2 = 36.91^*$
65 and older	39	15	46	(.000)	27	23	50	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1511)				(n = 1508)			
Male	31	15	54	$\chi^2 = 0.27$	25	26	49	$\chi^2 = 5.17$
Female	32	15	53	(.874)	23	22	55	(.075)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1508)				(n = 1506)			
High school diploma or less	37	21	42		29	27	44	
Some college	34	16	50	$\chi^2 = 48.14^*$	26	29	46	$\chi^2 = 50.36^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	26	10	64	(.000)	20	17	63	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1482)				(n = 1479)			
Married	31	14	55		23	24	54	
Never married	22	22	56		26	27	47	
Divorced/separated	42	14	44	$\chi^2 = 21.58^*$	32	28	40	$\chi^2 = 15.59^*$
Widowed	38	12	51	(.001)	23	18	59	(.016)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1070)				(n = 1067)			
Mgt, prof or education	36	10	65		19	21	61	
Sales or office support	33	11	56		24	25	51	
Constrn, inst or maint	32	21	47		26	30	44	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	31	19	51		32	23	44	
Agriculture	34	15	50		25	24	51	
Food serv/pers. care	30	20	50		32	22	47	
Hlthcare supp/safety	33	6	61	$\chi^2 = 36.96^*$	21	23	56	$\chi^2 = 21.64$
Other	38	21	41	(.001)	32	15	53	(.086)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>	(n = 1454)				(n = 1451)			
Five years or less	25	13	63	$\chi^2 = 9.98^*$	16	21	62	$\chi^2 = 13.76^*$
More than five years	33	15	52	(.007)	25	24	51	(.001)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I feel like a member of this community.</i>				<i>I belong in this community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	16	22	62		13	24	63	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1476)				(n = 1470)			
Less than 500	17	17	66		13	20	67	
500 - 999	15	21	64		13	18	69	
1,000 - 4,999	16	21	63		13	21	66	
5,000 - 9,999	17	24	59	$\chi^2 = 9.28$	15	25	59	$\chi^2 = 21.32^*$
10,000 and up	16	26	58	(.320)	14	31	55	(.006)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1506)				(n = 1495)			
Panhandle	14	31	55		14	33	53	
North Central	19	25	57		14	24	62	
South Central	13	19	68		10	23	68	
Northeast	19	21	60	$\chi^2 = 21.53^*$	18	20	62	$\chi^2 = 22.66^*$
Southeast	15	20	65	(.006)	13	24	63	(.004)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1429)				(n = 1415)			
Under \$20,000	22	19	59		15	19	65	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	20	24	56		18	31	51	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18	19	62	$\chi^2 = 14.09^*$	17	20	63	$\chi^2 = 28.74^*$
\$60,000 and over	13	23	64	(.029)	10	24	66	(.000)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1509)				(n = 1499)			
19 - 29	18	27	55		14	20	67	
30 - 39	13	24	62		13	27	61	
40 - 49	15	20	65		11	26	63	
50 - 64	21	23	56	$\chi^2 = 25.75^*$	18	26	56	$\chi^2 = 17.22^*$
65 and older	12	18	70	(.001)	11	21	68	(.028)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1503)				(n = 1494)			
Male	16	24	60	$\chi^2 = 4.24$	12	26	62	$\chi^2 = 5.65$
Female	16	20	64	(.120)	15	22	63	(.059)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1501)				(n = 1492)			
High school diploma or less	17	28	55		13	30	57	
Some college	17	23	60	$\chi^2 = 17.34^*$	13	24	63	$\chi^2 = 9.34$
Bachelors or grad degree	15	18	68	(.002)	14	21	66	(.053)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1474)				(n = 1465)			
Married	15	21	64		12	23	64	
Never married	21	26	53		14	30	56	
Divorced/separated	24	27	49	$\chi^2 = 29.00^*$	21	26	54	$\chi^2 = 20.59^*$
Widowed	8	15	77	(.000)	6	20	73	(.002)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1069)				(n = 1064)			
Mgt, prof or education	16	18	66		15	22	63	
Sales or office support	17	23	60		17	25	58	
Constrn, inst or maint	24	23	54		11	30	59	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	14	44	42		15	36	49	
Agriculture	11	17	72		8	15	77	
Food serv/pers. care	10	25	65		10	27	63	
Hlthcare supp/safety	16	23	61	$\chi^2 = 45.05^*$	17	23	59	$\chi^2 = 29.94^*$
Other	18	12	70	(.000)	17	17	66	(.008)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>	(n = 1448)				(n = 1439)			
Five years or less	15	34	51	$\chi^2 = 25.37^*$	18	27	56	$\chi^2 = 9.25^*$
More than five years	16	20	65	(.000)	12	23	65	(.010)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I have a say about what goes on in my community.</i>				<i>People in this community are good at influencing each other.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	34	33	33		16	36	49	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1480)				(n = 1474)			
Less than 500	28	31	41		11	34	56	
500 - 999	23	34	43		9	37	54	
1,000 - 4,999	33	32	35		16	35	49	
5,000 - 9,999	38	33	29	$\chi^2 = 41.29^*$	19	32	48	$\chi^2 = 26.80^*$
10,000 and up	42	33	25	(.000)	20	38	42	(.001)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1507)				(n = 1502)			
Panhandle	35	36	28		18	33	49	
North Central	34	28	37		18	35	47	
South Central	30	37	33		11	38	51	
Northeast	34	34	32	$\chi^2 = 14.48$	16	36	47	$\chi^2 = 12.68$
Southeast	38	27	35	(.070)	20	33	47	(.124)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1428)				(n = 1427)			
Under \$20,000	36	36	28		20	36	44	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	42	36	22		17	41	42	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	35	35	30	$\chi^2 = 28.93^*$	15	33	52	$\chi^2 = 9.74$
\$60,000 and over	31	30	39	(.000)	16	33	51	(.136)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1512)				(n = 1505)			
19 - 29	33	30	37		12	35	53	
30 - 39	37	34	29		23	30	47	
40 - 49	31	37	32		13	42	45	
50 - 64	39	30	31	$\chi^2 = 13.53$	16	35	49	$\chi^2 = 19.12^*$
65 and older	29	34	36	(.095)	16	34	50	(.014)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1505)				(n = 1502)			
Male	35	30	35	$\chi^2 = 7.18^*$	17	36	48	$\chi^2 = 0.94$
Female	32	36	32	(.028)	15	36	49	(.626)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1503)				(n = 1498)			
High school diploma or less	39	35	26		19	37	44	
Some college	34	38	28	$\chi^2 = 40.52^*$	13	40	47	$\chi^2 = 14.32^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	30	27	43	(.000)	17	31	52	(.006)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1479)				(n = 1473)			
Married	33	33	35		15	36	50	
Never married	42	34	24		20	47	33	
Divorced/separated	38	32	31	$\chi^2 = 13.44^*$	17	32	51	$\chi^2 = 19.09^*$
Widowed	26	39	36	(.037)	16	29	56	(.004)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1071)				(n = 1063)			
Mgt, prof or education	32	27	41		19	35	46	
Sales or office support	31	34	35		9	23	68	
Constrn, inst or maint	51	28	21		17	51	32	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	48	28	24		18	41	42	
Agriculture	26	33	41		13	32	55	
Food serv/pers. care	44	31	25		8	33	58	
Hlthcare supp/safety	34	32	34	$\chi^2 = 36.47^*$	16	30	54	$\chi^2 = 41.10^*$
Other	49	23	29	(.001)	19	28	53	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>	(n = 1450)				(n = 1446)			
Five years or less	30	29	41	$\chi^2 = 8.54^*$	12	32	56	$\chi^2 = 6.70^*$
More than five years	35	34	32	(.014)	16	36	48	(.035)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I feel connected to this community.</i>				<i>I have a good bond with others in this community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	20	24	57		15	22	63	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1477)				(n = 1479)			
Less than 500	15	25	61		14	18	68	
500 - 999	19	20	61		14	17	69	
1,000 - 4,999	20	23	57		15	23	62	
5,000 - 9,999	25	21	54	$\chi^2 = 14.32$	12	23	65	$\chi^2 = 14.39$
10,000 and up	22	27	51	(.074)	18	25	57	(.072)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1503)				(n = 1508)			
Panhandle	24	31	45		13	33	54	
North Central	22	24	55		14	24	62	
South Central	15	24	61		12	23	66	
Northeast	22	22	56	$\chi^2 = 22.04^*$	18	21	62	$\chi^2 = 33.34^*$
Southeast	22	20	58	(.005)	19	13	67	(.000)
<b>Household Income Level</b>	(n = 1427)				(n = 1431)			
Under \$20,000	21	25	54		15	22	63	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	24	29	46		19	26	55	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	21	23	57	$\chi^2 = 14.98^*$	17	20	63	$\chi^2 = 9.87$
\$60,000 and over	19	22	60	(.020)	13	22	65	(.130)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1506)				(n = 1514)			
19 - 29	26	24	51		16	22	63	
30 - 39	22	24	54		19	22	59	
40 - 49	16	24	61		14	20	66	
50 - 64	22	27	52	$\chi^2 = 19.54^*$	17	26	57	$\chi^2 = 16.94^*$
65 and older	16	21	63	(.012)	11	20	69	(.031)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1503)				(n = 1508)			
Male	21	23	56	$\chi^2 = 2.11$	14	21	64	$\chi^2 = 1.11$
Female	19	25	57	(.348)	16	23	62	(.573)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1499)				(n = 1504)			
High school diploma or less	21	31	49		19	26	55	
Some college	20	25	55	$\chi^2 = 18.52^*$	12	24	64	$\chi^2 = 19.78^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	19	19	62	(.001)	16	18	66	(.001)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1474)				(n = 1478)			
Married	19	22	59		15	21	65	
Never married	29	26	45		20	24	57	
Divorced/separated	23	33	44	$\chi^2 = 28.88^*$	19	26	55	$\chi^2 = 14.25^*$
Widowed	13	23	64	(.000)	9	17	74	(.027)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1066)				(n = 1065)			
Mgt, prof or education	23	21	56		17	17	66	
Sales or office support	17	26	57		14	29	57	
Constrn, inst or maint	24	27	49		16	14	70	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	30	25	45		23	28	50	
Agriculture	17	20	63		12	25	63	
Food serv/pers. care	10	28	62		8	33	58	
Hlthcare supp/safety	15	19	66	$\chi^2 = 26.59^*$	15	21	65	$\chi^2 = 26.21^*$
Other	9	25	66	(.022)	18	21	62	(.024)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>	(n = 1447)				(n = 1449)			
Five years or less	31	25	45	$\chi^2 = 26.77^*$	21	27	52	$\chi^2 = 17.10^*$
More than five years	17	23	59	(.000)	14	21	66	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 9. Change in Community Political Discussions by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

*In the past five years, have you found that people in your community are discussing political issues less than they have in the past, more than they have in the past or has this not changed?*

	<i>Less often</i>	<i>Not changed</i>	<i>More often</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	7	44	49	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1467)		
Less than 500	9	54	38	
500 - 999	3	58	39	
1,000 - 4,999	4	46	50	
5,000 - 9,999	10	42	48	$\chi^2 = 68.89^*$
10,000 and up	8	32	60	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1493)		
Panhandle	5	51	44	
North Central	8	46	46	
South Central	7	42	51	
Northeast	6	42	52	$\chi^2 = 7.34$
Southeast	6	47	47	(.501)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1418)		
Under \$20,000	12	42	46	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	7	44	49	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	6	45	49	$\chi^2 = 7.35$
\$60,000 and over	6	44	51	(.290)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1499)		
19 - 29	6	59	35	
30 - 39	7	40	53	
40 - 49	4	39	57	
50 - 64	8	45	48	$\chi^2 = 38.11^*$
65 and older	9	42	50	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1496)		
Male	8	43	49	$\chi^2 = 3.72$
Female	6	46	49	(.156)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1466)		
Married	6	44	51	
Never married	10	44	46	
Divorced/separated	9	47	44	$\chi^2 = 8.27$
Widowed	9	43	48	(.219)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1490)		
H.S. diploma or less	9	44	47	
Some college	5	46	49	$\chi^2 = 5.86$
Bachelors degree	7	43	50	(.210)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1058)		
Mgt, prof, education	7	45	48	
Sales/office support	3	44	53	
Const, inst or maint	7	51	43	
Prodn/trans/warehs	17	40	43	
Agriculture	5	42	52	
Food serv/pers. care	3	36	61	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	44	54	$\chi^2 = 31.01^*$
Other	6	38	56	(.006)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1441)		
Five years or less	9	58	34	$\chi^2 = 27.48^*$
More than five years	6	42	52	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level

**Appendix Table 10. Opinions about Leaving Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

*Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?*

	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Chi-square (sig.)
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Total</b>	30	18	52	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1475)		
Less than 500	28	12	60	
500 - 999	22	19	59	
1,000 - 4,999	26	21	53	
5,000 - 9,999	32	22	46	$\chi^2 = 31.06^*$
10,000 and up	36	19	46	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1503)		
Panhandle	36	26	37	
North Central	35	15	50	
South Central	23	17	61	
Northeast	30	20	51	$\chi^2 = 37.71^*$
Southeast	32	17	51	(.000)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1427)		
Under \$20,000	24	19	57	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	33	23	45	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	30	19	51	$\chi^2 = 12.52$
\$60,000 and over	31	15	54	(.051)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1509)		
19 - 29	27	29	43	
30 - 39	35	11	53	
40 - 49	28	15	57	
50 - 64	35	18	48	$\chi^2 = 44.48^*$
65 and older	24	19	57	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1502)		
Male	33	19	48	$\chi^2 = 10.99^*$
Female	26	18	56	(.004)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1474)		
Married	28	17	55	
Never married	38	26	37	
Divorced/separated	39	13	48	$\chi^2 = 29.99^*$
Widowed	19	19	62	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1501)		
H.S. diploma or less	28	17	56	
Some college	29	19	52	$\chi^2 = 2.40$
Bachelors degree	31	19	50	(.663)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1064)		
Mgt, prof, education	32	22	46	
Sales/office support	34	8	58	
Const, inst or maint	33	19	48	
Prodn/trans/warehs	44	22	33	
Agriculture	24	15	62	
Food serv/pers. care	24	12	64	
Hlthcare supp/safety	32	20	48	$\chi^2 = 37.06^*$
Other	32	18	50	(.001)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1447)		
Five years or less	36	25	38	$\chi^2 = 25.20^*$
More than five years	28	17	55	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 11. Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

**Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?**

	<i>Yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas</i>	<i>Yes, to someplace in Nebraska outside metro areas</i>	<i>Yes, to someplace other than Nebraska</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	1	4	3	81	11	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1479)				
Less than 500	2	3	1	84	10	
500 - 999	1	4	4	79	13	
1,000 - 4,999	0.3	5	2	80	12	
5,000 - 9,999	1	4	2	79	15	$\chi^2 = 23.15$
10,000 and up	2	3	3	82	10	(.110)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1508)				
Panhandle	1	3	4	71	21	
North Central	0	6	4	79	11	
South Central	1	2	2	85	10	
Northeast	2	4	2	81	11	$\chi^2 = 36.72^*$
Southeast	2	5	2	83	10	(.002)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1430)				
Under \$20,000	1	2	2	77	18	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	1	4	4	74	16	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	2	3	3	79	14	$\chi^2 = 29.59^*$
\$60,000 and over	1	5	2	84	8	(.003)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1510)				
19 - 29	2	10	0	77	12	
30 - 39	0	3	2	78	17	
40 - 49	1	3	3	81	11	
50 - 64	2	2	3	82	11	$\chi^2 = 57.14^*$
65 and older	1	2	3	86	8	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1506)				
Male	1	4	3	81	11	$\chi^2 = 4.53$
Female	2	4	2	81	12	(.339)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1476)				
Married	1	4	2	83	10	
Never married	1	7	1	79	12	
Divorced/separated	2	1	6	73	18	$\chi^2 = 26.91^*$
Widowed	1	2	3	84	11	(.008)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1503)				
H.S. diploma or less	1	3	3	79	13	
Some college	1	4	1	83	10	$\chi^2 = 8.73$
Bachelors degree	1	4	3	80	11	(.365)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1070)				
Mgt, prof, education	1	6	4	77	12	
Sales/office support	1	5	1	81	13	
Const, inst or maint	2	3	3	83	8	
Prodn/trans/warehs	1	0	4	80	14	
Agriculture	0	1	1	91	7	
Food serv/pers. care	2	0	3	84	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	3	7	3	78	9	$\chi^2 = 50.18^*$
Other	6	3	0	68	24	(.006)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1450)				
Five years or less	0	10	1	75	14	$\chi^2 = 36.90^*$
More than five years	1	3	3	83	11	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.



**Appendix Table 12. Size of Community Planning to Move to by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<i>If yes, to what size of community do you plan to move?</i>				
	<i>In or near a community larger than your current one</i>	<i>In or near a community smaller than your current one</i>	<i>In or near a community of the same size as your current one</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	64	14	22	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 113)		
Less than 500	93	0	7	
500 - 999	78	17	6	
1,000 - 4,999	69	3	28	
5,000 - 9,999	40	20	40	$\chi^2 = 18.33^*$
10,000 and up	49	22	29	(.019)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 112)		
Panhandle	43	7	50	
North Central	46	5	50	
South Central	62	27	12	
Northeast	74	19	7	$\chi^2 = 31.56^*$
Southeast	90	5	5	(.000)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 109)		
Under \$20,000	57**	29**	14**	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	76	20	4	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	54	21	25	$\chi^2 = 11.78$
\$60,000 and over	64	6	30	(.067)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 114)		
19 - 29	66	0	35	
30 - 39	39	31	31	
40 - 49	84	16	0	
50 - 64	52	22	26	$\chi^2 = 19.77^*$
65 and older	65	10	25	(.011)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 112)		
Male	56	16	27	$\chi^2 = 3.10$
Female	72	12	16	(.212)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 111)		
H.S. diploma or less	35	30	35	
Some college	64	14	21	$\chi^2 = 13.33^*$
Bachelors degree	78	7	15	(.010)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 90)		
Mgt, prof, education	74	5	21	
Sales/office support	50**	38**	13**	
Const, inst or maint	57**	29**	14**	
Prodn/trans/warehs	50**	17**	33**	
Agriculture	33**	33**	33**	
Food serv/pers. care	67**	0**	33**	
Hlthcare supp/safety	78	11	11	$\chi^2 = 14.00$
Other	67**	33**	0**	(.449)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 108)		
Five years or less	54	18	29	$\chi^2 = 1.74$
More than five years	68	13	20	(.418)
<b>Where Plan to Move</b>		(n = 112)		
Lincoln/Omaha area	100	0	0	
Someplace else in NE	51	19	30	$\chi^2 = 14.66^*$
Someplace outside NE	68	14	19	(.005)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level \*\* Row percentages are calculated using row total with less than 10 respondents.

**Appendix Table 13. Individual and Community Political Views by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<b>Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?</b>					
<i>Your political views on economic issues</i>					
	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	12	17	59	13	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1469)			
Less than 500	8	12	63	17	
500 - 999	7	16	64	13	
1,000 - 4,999	11	17	62	10	
5,000 - 9,999	14	20	54	12	$\chi^2 = 34.25^*$
10,000 and up	17	19	52	13	(.001)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1493)			
Panhandle	11	20	58	12	
North Central	11	13	64	13	
South Central	14	18	57	11	
Northeast	11	18	54	17	$\chi^2 = 18.98$
Southeast	12	15	65	9	(.089)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1422)			
Under \$20,000	17	16	41	27	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12	21	50	17	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	12	18	59	11	$\chi^2 = 63.58^*$
\$60,000 and over	12	15	66	8	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1497)			
19 - 29	10	12	61	18	
30 - 39	13	13	61	13	
40 - 49	13	18	58	11	
50 - 64	12	19	58	12	$\chi^2 = 18.03$
65 and older	12	20	57	11	(.115)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1494)			
Male	11	17	64	8	$\chi^2 = 28.41^*$
Female	13	17	54	16	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1466)			
Married	11	17	63	10	
Never married	14	15	54	17	
Divorced/separated	13	17	48	21	$\chi^2 = 32.37^*$
Widowed	15	21	45	18	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1493)			
H.S. diploma or less	12	19	47	22	
Some college	11	17	58	14	$\chi^2 = 57.72^*$
Bachelors degree	13	16	65	6	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1068)			
Mgt, prof, education	12	15	67	6	
Sales/office support	15	9	61	15	
Const, inst or maint	9	15	69	7	
Prodn/trans/warehs	8	27	51	14	
Agriculture	5	10	82	3	
Food serv/pers. care	25	31	22	22	
Hlthcare supp/safety	12	22	45	21	$\chi^2 = 125.69^*$
Other	21	15	50	15	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1441)			
Five years or less	11	12	59	17	$\chi^2 = 11.10^*$
More than five years	12	18	60	11	(.011)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

*Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?*

*Your political views on social issues*

	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	17	19	52	13	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1473)			
Less than 500	13	14	56	17	
500 - 999	11	20	57	13	
1,000 - 4,999	14	23	54	9	
5,000 - 9,999	12	22	55	11	$\chi^2 = 53.92^*$
10,000 and up	25	17	44	14	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1499)			
Panhandle	13	19	55	13	
North Central	15	17	55	13	
South Central	20	18	51	11	
Northeast	15	21	47	18	$\chi^2 = 21.98^*$
Southeast	17	20	55	8	(.038)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1427)			
Under \$20,000	16	21	38	25	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	15	24	43	18	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	16	22	52	10	$\chi^2 = 61.41^*$
\$60,000 and over	19	16	58	8	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1500)			
19 - 29	18	16	51	16	
30 - 39	20	13	54	13	
40 - 49	15	23	50	12	
50 - 64	15	20	53	13	$\chi^2 = 16.73$
65 and older	17	22	51	10	(.160)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1497)			
Male	16	18	58	8	$\chi^2 = 29.45^*$
Female	17	21	46	16	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1468)			
Married	16	19	55	10	
Never married	15	18	50	17	
Divorced/separated	16	23	39	22	$\chi^2 = 33.59^*$
Widowed	18	21	42	18	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1497)			
H.S. diploma or less	12	20	46	22	
Some college	14	20	52	14	$\chi^2 = 66.21^*$
Bachelors degree	22	18	54	6	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1071)			
Mgt, prof, education	20	19	55	6	
Sales/office support	18	12	55	15	
Const, inst or maint	11	17	62	11	
Prodn/trans/warehs	18	20	48	15	
Agriculture	8	12	77	3	
Food serv/pers. care	27	31	19	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	19	22	38	22	$\chi^2 = 108.82^*$
Other	26	14	46	14	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1445)			
Five years or less	19	11	53	17	$\chi^2 = 17.19^*$
More than five years	15	21	53	11	(.001)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

*Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views  
that people might hold?*

*Your community's political views on economic issues*

	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	6	18	60	16	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1471)			
Less than 500	5	14	60	21	
500 - 999	4	21	58	17	
1,000 - 4,999	4	19	65	13	
5,000 - 9,999	9	22	50	19	$\chi^2 = 30.23^*$
10,000 and up	8	16	61	15	(.003)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1497)			
Panhandle	6	17	59	18	
North Central	7	18	60	15	
South Central	5	16	66	13	
Northeast	8	19	51	22	$\chi^2 = 27.40^*$
Southeast	5	19	64	12	(.007)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1427)			
Under \$20,000	11	24	39	26	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	6	23	49	22	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	8	18	58	16	$\chi^2 = 75.52^*$
\$60,000 and over	5	15	70	11	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1501)			
19 - 29	2	14	65	20	
30 - 39	6	9	70	15	
40 - 49	6	23	57	15	
50 - 64	7	19	58	16	$\chi^2 = 40.66^*$
65 and older	9	21	55	16	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1496)			
Male	7	17	66	11	$\chi^2 = 33.01^*$
Female	6	19	55	21	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1465)			
Married	5	17	64	14	
Never married	5	17	57	21	
Divorced/separated	9	20	48	23	$\chi^2 = 43.01^*$
Widowed	12	21	40	27	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1494)			
H.S. diploma or less	8	19	48	26	
Some college	6	20	57	18	$\chi^2 = 60.98^*$
Bachelors degree	6	15	70	9	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1070)			
Mgt, prof, education	4	14	71	12	
Sales/office support	3	6	70	21	
Const, inst or maint	8	16	64	12	
Prodn/trans/warehs	7	25	51	17	
Agriculture	3	16	76	5	
Food serv/pers. care	10	27	39	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	7	16	54	24	$\chi^2 = 75.66^*$
Other	3	27	56	15	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1443)			
Five years or less	5	9	66	20	$\chi^2 = 17.92^*$
More than five years	6	20	60	15	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

<i>Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?</i>					
<i>Your community's political views on social issues</i>					
	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	7	18	60	16	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1473)			
Less than 500	7	14	58	21	
500 - 999	4	21	58	17	
1,000 - 4,999	4	19	64	13	
5,000 - 9,999	11	23	48	18	$\chi^2 = 37.02^*$
10,000 and up	8	14	62	16	(.000)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1494)			
Panhandle	6	21	55	18	
North Central	9	17	59	15	
South Central	6	16	65	14	
Northeast	7	19	53	22	$\chi^2 = 24.09^*$
Southeast	5	17	65	13	(.020)
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1424)			
Under \$20,000	12	22	39	27	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	23	50	22	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	9	18	58	16	$\chi^2 = 70.87^*$
\$60,000 and over	5	15	69	11	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1501)			
19 - 29	2	14	65	20	
30 - 39	6	9	71	14	
40 - 49	8	20	57	15	
50 - 64	7	19	57	16	$\chi^2 = 41.77^*$
65 and older	8	22	53	16	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1496)			
Male	7	16	66	11	$\chi^2 = 29.59^*$
Female	6	19	55	21	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1465)			
Married	6	17	64	14	
Never married	5	19	55	21	
Divorced/separated	10	18	49	23	$\chi^2 = 41.22^*$
Widowed	12	21	40	27	(.000)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1492)			
H.S. diploma or less	7	19	48	26	
Some college	6	20	57	18	$\chi^2 = 60.46^*$
Bachelors degree	6	15	70	9	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1066)			
Mgt, prof, education	5	13	71	12	
Sales/office support	3	8	68	21	
Const, inst or maint	8	20	60	13	
Prodn/trans/warehs	10	20	54	17	
Agriculture	5	18	74	4	
Food serv/pers. care	10	27	39	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	17	57	22	$\chi^2 = 63.80^*$
Other	9	18	58	15	(.000)
<b>Yrs Lived in Comm.</b>		(n = 1443)			
Five years or less	5	8	67	20	$\chi^2 = 22.27^*$
More than five years	6	20	59	15	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 14. Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

<i>Compared to Five Years Ago</i>						
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Total</b>	2	11	35	39	13	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1485)					
Less than 500	2	11	41	36	10	
500 - 999	2	10	28	44	16	
1,000 - 4,999	3	8	35	43	11	
5,000 - 9,999	2	15	35	35	14	$\chi^2 = 22.75$
10,000 and up	2	12	36	36	14	(.121)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1516)					
Panhandle	6	15	39	32	9	
North Central	3	11	41	38	7	
South Central	1	11	30	43	16	
Northeast	1	11	38	39	11	$\chi^2 = 46.52^*$
Southeast	3	8	36	38	15	(.000)
<b>Income Level</b>	(n = 1433)					
Under \$20,000	11	20	41	19	9	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4	15	39	36	6	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	1	12	41	39	8	$\chi^2 = 156.56^*$
\$60,000 and over	0.4	7	29	45	19	(.000)
<b>Age</b>	(n = 1515)					
19 - 29	0	0	24	55	22	
30 - 39	0	3	29	47	22	
40 - 49	2	16	30	38	15	
50 - 64	4	14	41	36	6	$\chi^2 = 217.01^*$
65 and older	3	17	49	28	4	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>	(n = 1513)					
Male	2	12	33	40	13	$\chi^2 = 3.25$
Female	2	11	37	38	12	(.517)
<b>Marital Status</b>	(n = 1482)					
Married	1	10	33	41	15	
Never married	2	7	38	46	7	
Divorced/separated	7	17	34	36	6	$\chi^2 = 97.39^*$
Widowed	2	18	59	19	3	(.000)
<b>Education</b>	(n = 1510)					
H.S. diploma or less	3	16	50	25	5	
Some college	2	10	33	43	12	$\chi^2 = 78.88^*$
Bachelors degree	2	9	30	43	17	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>	(n = 1068)					
Mgt, prof or education	1	8	30	45	16	
Sales or office support	3	12	28	44	13	
Constn, inst or maint	1	8	41	41	9	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	15	30	44	9	
Agriculture	4	10	34	36	17	
Food serv/pers. care	3	12	31	48	7	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	6	28	39	25	$\chi^2 = 47.38^*$
Other	0	6	51	31	11	(.012)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

<i>Compared to Parents When They Were Your Age</i>						
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Total</b>	3	15	27	38	17	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 1479)			
Less than 500	3	17	26	38	17	
500 - 999	1	13	34	33	19	
1,000 - 4,999	3	12	27	44	15	
5,000 - 9,999	5	13	26	39	16	$\chi^2 = 23.30$
10,000 and up	4	17	26	36	18	(.106)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 1506)			
Panhandle	6	16	30	34	14	
North Central	3	16	27	41	14	
South Central	2	13	27	41	16	
Northeast	4	16	29	36	14	$\chi^2 = 28.21^*$
Southeast	2	15	24	36	24	(.030)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 1431)			
Under \$20,000	10	24	35	24	8	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	23	38	27	7	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	4	19	23	41	13	$\chi^2 = 151.13^*$
\$60,000 and over	1	9	24	42	24	(.000)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 1509)			
19 - 29	4	8	34	28	26	
30 - 39	1	12	29	33	25	
40 - 49	5	18	24	42	12	
50 - 64	5	21	27	38	10	$\chi^2 = 91.78^*$
65 and older	2	13	26	45	15	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 1508)			
Male	4	14	23	42	17	$\chi^2 = 15.26^*$
Female	3	16	31	35	16	(.004)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 1478)			
Married	2	13	25	41	19	
Never married	6	17	42	29	5	
Divorced/separated	7	28	27	28	10	$\chi^2 = 82.18^*$
Widowed	2	12	31	39	16	(.000)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 1504)			
H.S. diploma or less	3	16	28	40	12	
Some college	3	17	30	36	15	$\chi^2 = 17.48^*$
Bachelors degree	3	13	24	40	20	(.025)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1069)			
Mgt, prof or education	2	10	31	38	19	
Sales or office support	4	14	18	34	30	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	18	33	33	13	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	4	20	25	41	10	
Agriculture	2	16	22	43	18	
Food serv/pers. care	10	13	33	37	7	
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	23	26	28	18	$\chi^2 = 67.57^*$
Other	0	24	29	41	6	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

<i>Ten Years From Now</i>						
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Total</b>	3	13	35	38	11	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 1475)			
Less than 500	3	15	37	39	7	
500 - 999	1	12	32	44	11	
1,000 - 4,999	1	12	41	37	9	
5,000 - 9,999	5	18	28	33	17	$\chi^2 = 37.61^*$
10,000 and up	3	12	32	39	13	(.002)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 1505)			
Panhandle	3	19	35	35	9	
North Central	2	19	33	41	5	
South Central	2	10	36	41	11	
Northeast	3	12	34	38	13	$\chi^2 = 33.60^*$
Southeast	3	10	36	35	15	(.006)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 1427)			
Under \$20,000	10	24	39	22	5	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4	20	34	31	11	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	2	14	39	37	9	$\chi^2 = 117.22^*$
\$60,000 and over	1	8	31	46	14	(.000)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 1508)			
19 - 29	2	2	18	59	20	
30 - 39	1	5	14	57	24	
40 - 49	2	8	34	45	12	
50 - 64	4	18	44	30	5	$\chi^2 = 395.87^*$
65 and older	4	26	54	15	2	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 1503)			
Male	3	15	35	34	12	$\chi^2 = 13.32^*$
Female	2	12	34	42	11	(.010)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 1477)			
Married	2	11	34	41	12	
Never married	6	12	29	42	11	
Divorced/separated	6	20	32	35	8	$\chi^2 = 85.99^*$
Widowed	3	19	63	13	3	(.000)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 1501)			
H.S. diploma or less	5	19	45	21	9	
Some college	2	14	33	41	10	$\chi^2 = 72.15^*$
Bachelors degree	2	9	31	45	13	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1069)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	9	27	52	11	
Sales or office support	2	12	40	36	10	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	13	32	40	11	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	17	32	21	21	
Agriculture	2	13	30	47	8	
Food serv/pers. care	2	15	30	40	13	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	6	18	50	25	$\chi^2 = 90.80^*$
Other	3	11	37	40	9	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.



**Appendix Table 15. Life Has Changed So Much in Our Modern World that Most People Are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives.**

	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<b>Total</b>	52	21	27	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1447)		
Less than 500	46	24	30	
500 - 999	60	21	19	
1,000 - 4,999	46	21	33	
5,000 - 9,999	52	17	31	$\chi^2 = 25.84^*$
10,000 and up	57	20	23	(.001)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1473)		
Panhandle	51	22	27	
North Central	52	16	31	
South Central	56	24	20	
Northeast	46	24	30	$\chi^2 = 31.47^*$
Southeast	50	15	35	(.000)
<b>Household Income</b>		(n = 1392)		
Under \$20,000	30	21	49	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	42	26	32	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	50	19	32	$\chi^2 = 71.19^*$
\$60,000 and over	61	18	21	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1478)		
19 - 29	49	21	31	
30 - 39	61	20	19	
40 - 49	60	20	20	
50 - 64	49	20	30	$\chi^2 = 37.71^*$
65 and older	42	23	35	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1472)		
Male	50	19	31	$\chi^2 = 10.53^*$
Female	53	23	24	(.005)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1467)		
H.S. diploma or less	36	27	37	
Some college	52	22	27	$\chi^2 = 48.14^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	60	17	23	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1441)		
Married	54	20	26	
Never married	42	26	31	
Divorced/separated	51	17	33	$\chi^2 = 22.47^*$
Widowed	37	32	31	(.001)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1045)		
Mgt, prof or education	60	20	20	
Sales or office support	45	19	36	
Constrn, inst or maint	56	9	35	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	52	16	32	
Agriculture	52	25	23	
Food serv/pers. care	55	21	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	64	16	20	$\chi^2 = 39.21^*$
Other	55	36	10	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

*Appendix Table 16. Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2018*

Item	<i>Does Not Apply</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Somewhat Satisfied</i>	<i>Very Satisfied</i>
Your family	2%	1%	2%	9%	37%	49%
Your marriage	31	1	2	4	18	45
Greenery and open space	1	1	5	13	38	42
Your day to day personal safety	0.4	1	5	11	42	41
Clean air	1	3	6	11	42	38
Your transportation	1	2	6	8	45	37
Your friends	1	2	5	15	40	37
Your religion/spirituality	4	2	4	21	34	37
Clean water	1	4	10	10	39	36
Your general quality of life	1	1	7	10	52	30
Your education	3	2	9	17	39	30
Your housing	2	3	11	13	43	29
Your spare time	2	4	12	16	39	27
Your general standard of living	1	1	8	12	52	26
Your ability to afford your residence	2	6	13	14	40	26
Your health	1	5	11	13	49	22
Your job satisfaction	25	4	8	11	33	21
Your job security	26	4	7	13	29	21
Your ability to build assets/wealth	4	8	20	21	32	16
Your community	1	4	15	23	44	14
Current income level	4	11	22	13	38	13
Your job opportunities	22	10	18	18	20	12
Financial security during retirement	5	19	21	15	29	11

**Appendix Table 17. Dissatisfaction with Items By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.\*\***

	<i>Financial security during retirement</i>				<i>Your job opportunities</i>			
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<b>Total</b>	42	16	42		36	23	41	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1370)				(n = 1141)			
Less than 500	41	18	41		34	32	35	
500 - 999	46	19	35		42	21	37	
1,000 - 4,999	43	15	43		34	21	45	
5,000 - 9,999	38	20	42	$\chi^2 = 10.73$	43	19	38	$\chi^2 = 17.01^*$
10,000 and up	41	13	46	(.218)	35	22	43	(.030)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1394)				(n = 1159)			
Panhandle	42	16	42		53	19	29	
North Central	45	15	40		36	16	48	
South Central	45	15	40		29	25	46	
Northeast	44	17	39	$\chi^2 = 20.20^*$	39	25	36	$\chi^2 = 31.49^*$
Southeast	30	18	53	(.010)	35	26	39	(.000)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 1327)				(n = 1121)			
Under \$20,000	61	16	23		53	13	34	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	57	18	25		57	16	28	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	50	15	35	$\chi^2 = 101.33^*$	37	27	36	$\chi^2 = 66.64^*$
\$60,000 and over	31	14	55	(.000)	28	25	47	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1399)				(n = 1161)			
19 - 29	46	16	37		42	20	38	
30 - 39	41	16	44		35	18	47	
40 - 49	53	11	36		36	22	42	
50 - 64	43	18	39	$\chi^2 = 43.19^*$	33	29	38	$\chi^2 = 19.10^*$
65 and older	29	19	52	(.000)	33	32	35	(.014)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1395)				(n = 1157)			
Male	38	16	46	$\chi^2 = 7.86^*$	35	23	42	$\chi^2 = 0.89$
Female	45	16	39	(.020)	37	24	39	(.641)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1392)				(n = 1158)			
High school diploma or less	42	22	37		41	26	33	
Some college	49	17	34	$\chi^2 = 50.71^*$	39	25	36	$\chi^2 = 22.47^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	35	12	53	(.000)	31	21	49	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1372)				(n = 1134)			
Married	39	15	46		32	25	43	
Never married	63	19	18		50	14	36	
Divorced/separated	53	16	31	$\chi^2 = 54.74^*$	50	20	30	$\chi^2 = 29.45^*$
Widowed	29	21	50	(.000)	38	24	38	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 985)				(n = 1004)			
Mgt, prof or education	42	12	46		34	21	46	
Sales or office support	36	16	48		36	23	41	
Constrn, inst or maint	43	16	41		45	17	38	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	48	20	33		48	23	29	
Agriculture	39	20	41		26	30	44	
Food serv/pers. care	65	8	27		25	41	34	
Hlthcare supp/safety	45	14	41	$\chi^2 = 25.54^*$	40	14	46	$\chi^2 = 41.22^*$
Other	59	15	26	(.030)	50	25	25	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

Appendix Table 17 continued

	<i>Your current income level</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>Your ability to build assets/wealth</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>		<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	35	13	52		29	21	50	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1394)				(n = 1394)			
Less than 500	36	15	49		26	24	50	
500 - 999	36	16	48		24	23	53	
1,000 - 4,999	30	13	57		30	21	49	
5,000 - 9,999	39	15	46	$\chi^2 = 11.41$	34	16	51	$\chi^2 = 8.29$
10,000 and up	36	11	53	(.180)	31	20	49	(.406)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1419)				(n = 1416)			
Panhandle	40	15	45		35	18	47	
North Central	28	13	60		27	23	50	
South Central	35	13	52		28	22	50	
Northeast	36	16	48	$\chi^2 = 14.66$	29	25	47	$\chi^2 = 10.90$
Southeast	36	10	54	(.066)	29	16	55	(.208)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 1349)				(n = 1352)			
Under \$20,000	63	16	22		51	23	26	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	53	17	29		40	25	35	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	40	12	48	$\chi^2 = 173.81^*$	34	24	42	$\chi^2 = 111.54^*$
\$60,000 and over	22	10	68	(.000)	20	17	63	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1423)				(n = 1420)			
19 - 29	48	0	52		29	21	51	
30 - 39	30	9	61		27	12	61	
40 - 49	39	11	50		38	19	43	
50 - 64	35	16	48	$\chi^2 = 101.73^*$	28	21	52	$\chi^2 = 50.93^*$
65 and older	24	25	51	(.000)	23	32	45	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1418)				(n = 1416)			
Male	34	13	53	$\chi^2 = 0.31$	28	20	53	$\chi^2 = 3.82$
Female	35	14	51	(.858)	30	22	47	(.148)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1416)				(n = 1414)			
High school diploma or less	39	20	41		38	27	35	
Some college	39	15	46	$\chi^2 = 60.88^*$	30	26	44	$\chi^2 = 77.95^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	28	8	64	(.000)	23	14	64	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1395)				(n = 1387)			
Married	30	13	58		26	20	54	
Never married	66	7	27		38	26	37	
Divorced/separated	49	15	36	$\chi^2 = 106.36^*$	46	17	37	$\chi^2 = 51.72^*$
Widowed	26	27	46	(.000)	26	38	37	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1032)				(n = 1043)			
Mgt, prof or education	31	11	59		23	16	62	
Sales or office support	34	11	55		33	17	51	
Constrn, inst or maint	41	6	53		40	11	49	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	38	18	44		45	14	42	
Agriculture	33	14	53		23	25	52	
Food serv/pers. care	54	9	38		45	24	31	
Hlthcare supp/safety	39	8	53	$\chi^2 = 29.49^*$	28	11	62	$\chi^2 = 60.25^*$
Other	53	6	41	(.009)	34	34	31	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

Appendix Table 17 continued

		<i>Your ability to afford your residence</i>			
		<i>No opinion</i>			
		<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>		<i>Significance</i>
		<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Total</b>		19	14	67	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1429)			
	Less than 500	15	18	67	
	500 - 999	19	16	65	
	1,000 - 4,999	17	13	70	
	5,000 - 9,999	23	11	67	$\chi^2 = 14.02$
	10,000 and up	23	12	65	(.081)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1451)			
	Panhandle	21	15	64	
	North Central	18	15	68	
	South Central	19	13	68	
	Northeast	21	16	63	$\chi^2 = 9.20$
	Southeast	16	11	73	(.326)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>					
<i>Household Income Level</i>		(n = 1382)			
	Under \$20,000	40	22	38	
	\$20,000 - \$39,999	32	17	51	
	\$40,000 - \$59,999	21	12	67	$\chi^2 = 126.47^*$
	\$60,000 and over	11	11	78	(.000)
<i>Age</i>		(n = 1457)			
	19 - 29	25	10	65	
	30 - 39	17	11	72	
	40 - 49	23	14	62	
	50 - 64	18	16	67	$\chi^2 = 23.42^*$
	65 and older	13	17	70	(.003)
<i>Gender</i>		(n = 1452)			
	Male	16	12	72	$\chi^2 = 13.39^*$
	Female	22	15	63	(.001)
<i>Education</i>		(n = 1450)			
	High school diploma or less	25	16	59	
	Some college	19	15	66	$\chi^2 = 15.64^*$
	Bachelors or grad degree	16	12	72	(.004)
<i>Marital Status</i>		(n = 1425)			
	Married	14	13	72	
	Never married	35	15	51	
	Divorced/separated	34	11	55	$\chi^2 = 64.57^*$
	Widowed	21	18	60	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>		(n = 1043)			
	Mgt, prof or education	17	14	70	
	Sales or office support	18	8	73	
	Constrn, inst or maint	20	10	70	
	Prodn/trans/warehsing	28	11	62	
	Agriculture	11	17	72	
	Food serv/pers. care	32	13	55	
	Hlthcare supp/safety	23	5	72	$\chi^2 = 35.79^*$
	Other	25	25	50	(.001)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included

**Appendix Table 18. Satisfaction with Items By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.\*\***

	<i>Your marriage</i>				<i>Your family</i>			
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	3	6	91		3	9	87	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1010)				(n = 1423)			
Less than 500	3	5	92		3	10	87	
500 - 999	5	4	91		3	8	89	
1,000 - 4,999	3	4	93		3	10	87	
5,000 - 9,999	6	10	84	$\chi^2 = 11.06$	2	16	82	$\chi^2 = 14.19$
10,000 and up	3	6	91	(.199)	4	7	89	(.077)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1027)				(n = 1450)			
Panhandle	4	9	87		2	13	85	
North Central	5	5	90		5	11	84	
South Central	3	6	91		2	8	91	
Northeast	3	6	91	$\chi^2 = 8.88$	4	12	84	$\chi^2 = 17.72^*$
Southeast	3	3	95	(.352)	5	6	89	(.023)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 978)				(n = 1375)			
Under \$20,000	3	3	94		7	17	76	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	2	10	88		4	14	82	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	6	8	86	$\chi^2 = 11.87$	4	12	85	$\chi^2 = 39.12^*$
\$60,000 and over	3	4	93	(.065)	2	5	92	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1032)				(n = 1450)			
19 - 29	0	3	97		2	10	88	
30 - 39	4	6	91		2	3	95	
40 - 49	5	7	88		1	6	93	
50 - 64	4	5	91	$\chi^2 = 12.58$	6	14	81	$\chi^2 = 46.28^*$
65 and older	3	6	91	(.127)	5	12	83	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1028)				(n = 1447)			
Male	3	6	91	$\chi^2 = 0.03$	5	12	84	$\chi^2 = 13.44^*$
Female	3	6	91	(.987)	2	8	90	(.001)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1027)				(n = 1443)			
High school diploma or less	4	7	89		5	13	82	
Some college	4	8	88	$\chi^2 = 11.27^*$	2	11	86	$\chi^2 = 24.58^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	2	3	94	(.024)	3	5	92	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1027)				(n = 1417)			
Married	3	6	91		3	7	90	
Never married	NA	NA	NA		5	24	71	
Divorced/separated	NA	NA	NA		5	10	85	$\chi^2 = 52.47^*$
Widowed	NA	NA	NA		3	17	80	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 775)				(n = 1037)			
Mgt, prof or education	3	3	95		2	8	91	
Sales or office support	3	5	91		3	4	92	
Constrn, inst or maint	8	2	91		3	12	84	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	5	11	85		9	12	80	
Agriculture	3	4	93		3	6	91	
Food serv/pers. care	0	18	82		7	5	88	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	6	92	$\chi^2 = 37.35^*$	1	4	94	$\chi^2 = 26.97^*$
Other	8	21	71	(.001)	3	9	88	(.019)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat satisfied responses are included.

	<i>Your day to day personal safety</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>Your transportation</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>		<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Total</b>	6	11	84		8	9	83	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1447)				(n = 1428)			
Less than 500	3	12	85		13	10	78	
500 - 999	2	11	87		10	9	82	
1,000 - 4,999	3	10	87		5	7	87	
5,000 - 9,999	7	9	85	$\chi^2 = 34.48^*$	14	8	78	$\chi^2 = 21.98^*$
10,000 and up	11	11	79	(.000)	6	9	85	(.005)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1472)				(n = 1452)			
Panhandle	5	12	83		14	9	77	
North Central	6	12	82		4	10	86	
South Central	6	9	85		7	6	88	
Northeast	5	14	81	$\chi^2 = 11.19$	14	11	75	$\chi^2 = 46.66^*$
Southeast	7	6	87	(.191)	3	8	89	(.000)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 1395)				(n = 1382)			
Under \$20,000	9	18	73		18	14	68	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8	19	74		12	10	78	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	5	11	84	$\chi^2 = 48.79^*$	12	7	81	$\chi^2 = 52.52^*$
\$60,000 and over	5	6	89	(.000)	4	8	89	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1475)				(n = 1459)			
19 - 29	6	8	86		14	6	79	
30 - 39	8	7	86		7	6	87	
40 - 49	5	13	83		9	9	82	
50 - 64	7	12	81	$\chi^2 = 11.95$	7	10	83	$\chi^2 = 21.92^*$
65 and older	4	11	85	(.153)	5	10	85	(.005)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1471)				(n = 1452)			
Male	7	11	83	$\chi^2 = 1.99$	8	8	83	$\chi^2 = 0.03$
Female	5	10	85	(.370)	8	9	83	(.984)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1469)				(n = 1451)			
High school diploma or less	7	16	77		7	12	81	
Some college	7	11	83	$\chi^2 = 22.28^*$	10	10	81	$\chi^2 = 15.70^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	4	7	89	(.000)	7	5	88	(.003)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1444)				(n = 1425)			
Married	5	8	87		6	8	86	
Never married	10	15	75		18	9	74	
Divorced/separated	11	19	70	$\chi^2 = 40.94^*$	16	10	74	$\chi^2 = 43.51^*$
Widowed	5	13	82	(.000)	10	12	78	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1049)				(n = 1042)			
Mgt, prof or education	5	7	88		8	7	85	
Sales or office support	2	7	92		4	8	88	
Constrn, inst or maint	10	9	81		10	6	84	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	11	19	70		9	16	75	
Agriculture	2	9	89		6	5	89	
Food serv/pers. care	3	3	93		9	2	90	
Hlthcare supp/safety	10	11	79	$\chi^2 = 42.89^*$	5	9	86	$\chi^2 = 20.96$
Other	13	7	81	(.000)	3	10	87	(.103)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat satisfied responses are included.

Appendix Table 18 continued.

<i>Your general quality of life</i>				
<i>No</i>				
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<i>Percentages</i>				
<b>Total</b>	8	10	82	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 1443)			
Less than 500	8	11	81	
500 - 999	7	9	84	
1,000 - 4,999	8	10	82	
5,000 - 9,999	8	9	83	$\chi^2 = 1.49$
10,000 and up	7	11	82	(.993)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 1468)			
Panhandle	10	13	77	
North Central	6	14	80	
South Central	6	8	86	
Northeast	11	11	78	$\chi^2 = 21.50^*$
Southeast	6	8	87	(.006)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>				
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 1393)			
Under \$20,000	17	18	65	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	15	14	71	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	8	9	83	$\chi^2 = 82.37^*$
\$60,000 and over	3	8	89	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1471)			
19 - 29	8	8	84	
30 - 39	5	6	89	
40 - 49	8	15	77	
50 - 64	10	11	80	$\chi^2 = 20.04^*$
65 and older	6	10	84	(.010)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1466)			
Male	7	12	81	$\chi^2 = 2.11$
Female	8	9	83	(.349)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1466)			
High school diploma or less	9	18	74	
Some college	9	10	81	$\chi^2 = 37.67^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	5	6	89	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1438)			
Married	5	9	87	
Never married	15	21	65	
Divorced/separated	22	13	65	$\chi^2 = 100.81^*$
Widowed	6	11	83	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1046)			
Mgt, prof or education	5	8	88	
Sales or office support	6	4	90	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	3	84	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	12	20	68	
Agriculture	3	10	86	
Food serv/pers. care	12	7	81	
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	9	82	$\chi^2 = 43.96^*$
Other	9	19	72	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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